\$400M

16,828

Average 2013-14 attendance NHL rank: 19th

\$65.71M

Forbes 2013 valuation

NHL rank: 14th

Current 2014-15 payroll NHL rank: 16th

SOURCE: HOCKEY-REFERENCE.COM



Kevin Lowe | President of hockey operations

General manager **Craig MacTavish** Sr. VP of hockey operations **Scott Howson** Assistant general manager

Bill Scott Sr. dir. of player development **Rich Carriere** Dir. of player development **Mike Sillinger**

NATIONAL POST

Head coach **Dallas Eakins** Assistant coaches **Keith Acton Craig Ramsay Rocky Thompson Fredéric Chabot** (goalies) Myles Fee (video co-ord.) Head amateur scout **Stu MacGregor**

2014-15 OUTLOOK

The terms "potential," "rebuild" and "young talent" have become synonymous with the Edmonton Oilers over the last few seasons. Of course, so has missing the playoffs.

The Oilers have failed to reach the post-season for the last eight years, which makes them the owners of the longest current playoff drought in the NHL. The upside to losing — and there is one — is the Oilers have been able to draft well and bolster a roster that includes first-overall picks, Taylor Hall, Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Nail Yakupov.

Fans know a full-blown rebuild doesn't happen overnight and they've been patient, to a point. But one of these years the young kids must gradate from flashy firstrounders to Cup contenders.

Last year was definitely not that year. The Oilers got off to an abysmal start, winning three of their first 15 games and were essentially exiled from the playoff conversation by November.

So what makes this year different? For starters, the Oilers goaltending issue seems to have been addressed, not with one starter but two — Ben Scrivens and Viktor Fasth. Neither has held a consistent starting job in the league, but Scrivens was impressive down the stretch last season – albeit when the pressure was off – highlighted by a sensational 59-save shutout performance against the San Jose Sharks. The 1A-1B solution can be cumbersome (re: Toronto Maple

net last year this can only be viewed as a step up. After posting the worst goals against last season, defence is an area that certainly needed an upgrade, so during the off-season the Oilers added defenders Nikita Nikitin, Mark Fayne and Keith Aulie.

Leafs) but Edmonton was so bad in

All should bring size and physical presence to the blue line and ease the pressure on goaltending. Hall has emerged as the offensive leader, posting 80 points to finish seventh in NHL scoring. But if the

team is going to make any kind of run in the tough Western Conference, 2008 first-round pick Jordan Eberle, Nugent-Hopkins and Yakupov will need to do the same.

Last season, Eberle saw a decline in his numbers (65 points) and Yakupov was just a mess, landing in head coach Dallas Eakins' doghouse early and never recovering. With just a year left in his rookie contract, Yakupov will likely be out the door if he can't remind the Oilers why they picked him in the first round (especially when they could have used that pick to address their needs on defence).

This year's third overall pick, Leon Draisaitl has impressed in pre-season action. While it's always risky to call on an 18-year-old to be a contributing member of the lineup, Draisaitl could be playing himself into the second-line centre job.

Along with David Perron, the new additions of Teddy Purcell and Benoit Pouliot should add secondary scoring to a team that finished 25th in scoring last season.

Edmonton has used five coaches since the last time it made the playoffs. The time is now for the young players to graduate and move the Oilers forward.

Kaitlyn McGrath, National Post

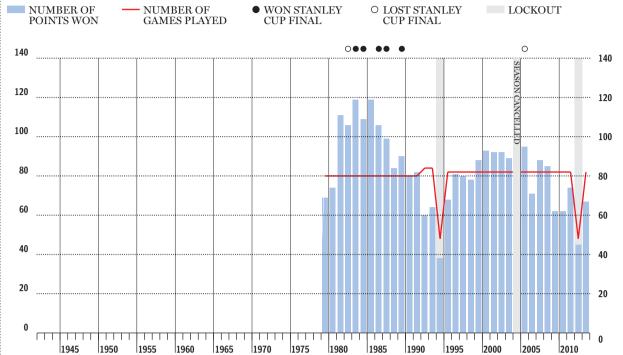
This is the third in our series of Canadian NHL team previews. Yesterday Flames | Tomorrow Canucks

See previous ones at nationalpost.com

EDMONTON OILERS YEARBOOK

2013-14 | 67 points (29-44-9), seventh in Pacific | 2.43 goals per game (25th); 3.26 goals allowed per game (30th) 0.71 5-on-5 goal ratio (29th) | 17.0% power play (21st); 82.1% penalty kill (15th) | -6.0 shot differential per game (26th) 2013-14 post-season | Did not qualify

THE FRANCHISE INDEX: THE OILERS SINCE JOINING THE NHL



Jordan Eberle and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins

DARRYL DYCK / THE CANADIAN PRESS

RIGHT WING

GP G

42

GOAL

ROOKIE WATCH

Draisaitl, Nurse, Klefbom

Ben Scrivens*

Viktor Fasth*

Richard Bachman

TOI

80 28 37 19:33

63 11 13 14:19

81 12 30 16:28

GP GAA SV% SO

21 3.01 .916 1

7 2.73 .914

3 3.02 .916

3 2 9:19

DEPTH CHART

LEFT	WING

33

Taylor Hall

Benoit Pouliot*

Matt Hendricks+

David Perron

Brac

And

Niki

G Α

3

27 53 20:01

0 14:19

80 15 21 13:26

78 28 29 19:08

	GP	G	A	TOI	
R. Nugent-Hopkins	80	19	37	20:24	Jordan Eberle
Leon Draisaitl^	64	38	67	n/a	Nail Yakupov
Mark Arcobello	41	4	14	15:04	Teddy Purcell*
Boyd Gordon	74	8	13	14:45	Jesse Joensuu

DEFENCE

	GP	G	A	TOI		GP	G	Α	TO
d Hunt	0	0	0	0	Justin Schultz	74	11	22	23:21
lrew Ference	71	3	15	21:04	Jeff Petry	80	7	10	21:35
ita Nikitin†	66	2	13	17:07	Mark Fayne†	72	4	7	18:19

C Will Acton, LW Luke Gazdik, D Darnell Nurse, D Oscar Klefbom

DEPTH PLAYERS

 * Acquired in off-season, stats are with previous team; † acquired during 2013-14 season, stats are with Edmonton only;

^ rookie, 2013-14 stats are from junior Nov. 21 New Jersey, 9:30 p.m. SN-W

SN-W

HNIC

SN

SN-W

SN-W

SN-W, TVA

FRANCHISERECORDS

Career and season records do not include years played in WHA

GAMES PLAYED, CAREER 1. Kevin Lowe | 1979-98

1,037 2. Ryan Smyth | 1994-2014 971 3. Mark Messier | 1979-91 851

474

417

1,086

1,669

1,043

1,034

147

.910

.909

.906

GOALS, CAREER

1. Wayne Gretzky | 1979-88

2. Jari Kurri | 1980-90 3. Glenn Anderson | 1980-96

GOALS, SEASON

Wayne Gretzky | 1981-82

ASSISTS, CAREER 1. Wayne Gretzky | 1979-88

2. Mark Messier | 1979-91 3. Jari Kurri | 1980-90

ASSISTS, SEASON

Wayne Gretzky | 1985-86

POINTS, CAREER 1. Wayne Gretzky | 1979-88

2. Jari Kurri | 1980-90 3. Mark Messier | 1979-91

POINTS, SEASON

Wayne Gretzky | 1985-86

PLUS-MINUS, SEASON

+98

Wayne Gretzky | 1984-85

PENALTY MINUTES, SEASON

Steve Smith | 1987-88

GOALIE WINS, CAREER

1. Grant Fuhr | 1981-91 2. Bill Ranford | 1987-2000

3. Tommy Salo | 1998-2004

GOALIE WINS, SEASON

Grant Fuhr | 1987-88 GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE,

CAREER 1. Tommy Salo | 1998-2004

2. Jussi Markkanen | 2001-07

3. Dwayne Roloson | 2005-09

2.78 GOALS AGAINST AVERAGE,

SEASON

Tommy Salo | 2001-02

SAVE PCT., CAREER

1. Devan Dubnyk | 2009-2014 2. Dwayne Roloson | 2005-09

3. Tommy Salo | 1998-2004

SAVE PCT., SEASON

Devan Dubnyk | 2012-13

Sources: Hockey-Reference.com, Flames.NHL.com, NHL.com, ESPN.com, Cangeek.com

SCHEDULEAll times Mountain

SCII	EDULE All t	imes Mountain
Oct. 9	Calgary, 9:30 p.m.	SN360
Oct. 11	at Vancouver, 10 p.m.	HNIC, TVA2
Oct. 14	at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.n	n. SN360
Oct. 15	at Arizona, 10:30 p.m.	SN-W
Oct. 17	Vancouver, 9:30 p.m. S	N-Oil, SN-Cnks
Oct. 20	Tampa Bay, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W, TVA
Oct. 22	Washington, 9:30 p.m.	SN360, SN1
Oct. 24	Carolina, 9:30 p.m.	SN-Oil
Oct. 27	Montreal, 9:30 p.m.	SN, RDS
Oct. 29	Nashville, 10 p.m.	SN360, SN1
Nov. 1	Vancouver, 10 p.m.	HNIC, TVA
Nov. 4	at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.	SN-Oil
Nov. 6	at Boston, 7 p.m.	SN360, TVA2
Nov. 7	at Buffalo, 7 p.m.	SN-W
Nov. 9	at NY Rangers, 6 p.m.	SN-W
Nov. 11	at Nashville, 8 p.m.	SN-W
Nov. 13	Ottawa, 9:30 p.m. SN-0	oil, TSN5, RDS2

Arizona, 9 p.m.

Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Nov. 16

Nov. 19

Nov. 22 HNIC, TVA2 Chicago, 10 p.m. Nov. 25 at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. SN-W Nov. 27 at Nashville, 8 p.m. **SN360** Nov. 28 at St. Louis, 8 p.m. SN-W Arizona, 9:30 p.m. SN-W Dec. 1 at Winnipeg, 9 p.m. SN, SN1 Dec. 3 Dec. 7 San Jose, 9 p.m. SN-W at San Jose, 10:30 p.m. SN-W Dec. 9 at Anaheim, 10 p.m. SN-W Dec. 10 Anaheim, 9:30 p.m. SN-W Dec. 12 NY Rangers, 9:30 p.m. SN-W Dec. 14 SN-W at Arizona, 9 p.m. Dec. 16 Dec. 18 at San Jose, 10:30 p.m. **SN360** Dec. 21 Dallas, 6 p.m. SN-W

Jan. 6	Detroit, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W
Jan. 9	Chicago, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W
Jan. 11	Florida, 7 p.m.	CITY
Jan. 13	at St. Louis, 8 p.m.	SN-W
Jan. 15	at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.	SN-W
Jan. 17	at Florida, 7 p.m.	SN-W
Jan. 20	at Washington, 7 p.m.	SN-W
Jan. 27	Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.	SN-Oil
Jan. 29	Buffalo, 9:30 p.m.	SN-Oil
Jan. 31	at Calgary, 10 p.m.	HNIC, TVA
Feb. 2	at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.	SN-Oil
Feb. 4	Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.	SN
Feb. 7	at Toronto, 7 p.m.	HNIC
Feb. 9	at New Jersey, 7 p.m.	SN-W
Feb. 10	at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.	SN-W
Feb. 12	at Montreal, 7:30 p.m. SI	N-W, SN-E, RDS
Feb. 14	at Ottawa, 2 p.m.	HNIC, TVA
Feb. 16	at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.	SN-Oil, TSN3
Feb. 18	Boston, 10 p.m.	SN
Feb. 20	Minnesota, 9 p.m.	SN-Oil
Feb. 21	Anaheim, 7 p.m.	HNIC
		72.204

Feb. 24	at Minnesota, 8 p.m.	SN-Oi
Feb. 28	St. Louis, 10 p.m.	HNIC
March 3	Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W
March 6	at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.	SN
March 8	at Carolina, 3 p.m.	SN-W
March 9	at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.	SN-W
March 12	at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.	SN-W
March 13	at Columbus, 7 p.m.	SN-Oi
March 16	Toronto, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W, SN-C
March 18	Columbus, 10 p.m.	SN
March 21	Philadelphia, 10 p.m.	HNIC
March 23	Winnipeg, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W, TSN3
March 25	Colorado, 8 p.m.	SN
March 27	Dallas, 9:30 p.m.	SN:
March 30	at Colorado, 9 p.m.	SN
April 1	at Anaheim, 10 p.m.	SN-W
April 2	at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.	SN-W
April 4	Calgary, 10 p.m.	HNIC
April 7	Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.	SN-W
April 9	San Jose, 9:30 p.m.	SN360
April 11	at Vancouver, 10 p.m.	HNIC

Arizona, 8 p.m.

at Calgary, 10 p.m.

Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

NY Islanders, 9:30 p.m.

at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.

at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Dec. 23

Dec. 27

Dec. 30

Dec. 31

Jan. 2

Jan. 4

SN-W