



Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

vs.

Lehigh Valley Phantoms



Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Playoff Game A-1

W-B/Scranton Penguins

2023-24 REGULAR SEASON:

39-24-8-1 (87 PTS, 3rd Atlantic)

Team Game: 1 20-11-5-0 (Home) PP: 17.2%
Home Game: 1 19-13-3-1 (Away) PK: 85.4%

Lehigh Valley Phantoms

2023-24 REGULAR SEASON:

32-31-6-3 (73 PTS, 6th Atlantic)

Team Game: 1 16-18-1-1 (Home) PP: 18.4%
Away Game: 1 16-13-5-2 (Away) PK: 79.8%

2023-24 REGULAR SEASON:

#	Goalie	GP	W	L	OTL	GAA	SV%	SO
30	G Joel Blomqvist	45	25	12	6	2.16	.921	1
33	G Taylor Gauthier	4	1	2	1	3.87	.889	1
45	G Ludovic Waeber	19	9	7	0	2.8	.893	2

2023-24 REGULAR SEASON:

#	Goalie	GP	W	L	OTL	GAA	SV%	SO
31	G Parker Gahagan	18	7	8	3	2.59	.914	0
32	G Felix Sandström	24	13	7	3	3.15	.884	0
35	G Alexei Kolosov	2	1	1	0	3.03	.885	0
40	G Cal Petersen	28	10	15	3	2.71	.902	2

#	Pos.	Player	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
3	D	Jack St. Ivany	54	4	11	15	30	+17
4	D	Taylor Fedun	43	1	11	12	42	+11
5	D	Ryan Shea	23	2	4	6	8	E
9	RW	Marc Johnstone	41	3	6	9	29	-2
11	C	Vasily Ponomarev	45	9	21	30	16	-20
12	RW	Corey Andonovski	63	7	23	30	99	-7
13	C	Vinnie Hinostroza	42	16	19	35	32	+1
15	LW	Joonas Koppanen	58	6	15	21	22	-2
16	RW	Logan Pietila	3	0	0	0	0	E
22	C	Sam Poulin	41	16	15	31	35	+10
23	LW	Jagger Joshua	63	10	15	25	93	+14
24	D	Ty Smith	63	9	34	43	36	-12
26	RW	Austin Rueschhoff	67	15	13	28	63	-7
34	C	Peter Abbandonato	45	8	18	26	6	E
36	C	Tristan Broz	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	LW	Matt Filipe	51	5	5	10	30	-1
38	D	Owen Pickering	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	C	Ville Koivunen	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	C	Jonathan Gruden	47	13	11	24	43	-2
46	RW	Mathieu De St. Phalle	7	1	0	1	0	+1
47	C	Sam Houde	12	4	8	12	2	-2
48	RW	Valtteri Puustinen	24	5	8	13	4	-6
49	C	Beau Jelsma	4	1	2	3	2	+2
51	D	Jack Rathbone	69	9	16	25	23	+16
53	D	Dmitri Samorukov	64	5	10	15	28	+7
56	D	Scooter Brickey	8	0	1	1	4	+2
61	D	Xavier Ouellet	63	2	23	25	31	+9
63	C	Radim Zohorna	30	10	16	26	10	+3
74	C	Cooper Foster	-	-	-	-	-	-
76	D	Emil Pieniniemi	-	-	-	-	-	-
79	D	Owen Headrick	20	1	4	5	4	-1
80	LW	Raivis Ansons	34	2	5	7	25	+1
85	RW	Avery Hayes	29	6	3	9	6	-1

#	Pos.	Player	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM	+/-
2	D	Helge Grans	56	1	7	8	24	+1
3	D	Adam Karashik	27	1	4	5	23	+2
4	D	Will Zmolek	6	0	2	2	0	-2
5	D	Ethan Samson	63	3	9	12	56	-7
6	D	Emil Andrae	61	5	27	32	66	-10
7	D	Louie Belpedio	38	4	6	10	55	-1
8	D	Mason Millman	15	0	4	4	10	-3
9	C	Tanner Laczynski	49	17	27	44	20	+12
10	LW	Evan Polei	38	2	4	6	36	E
12	D	Ronnie Attard	48	10	17	27	37	+4
13	LW	Brendan Furry	57	6	12	18	43	+1
14	C	Zayde Wisdom	49	2	1	3	24	-10
15	C	Massimo Rizzo	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	C	Jon-Randall Avon	65	9	9	18	20	-10
17	LW	Garrett Wilson	59	8	11	19	216	-9
18	RW	Tyler Gratton	1	0	0	0	0	E
19	D	Hunter McDonald	11	0	3	3	12	+6
20	RW	Cooper Marody	68	19	37	56	42	-26
22	C	Rhett Gardner	60	10	13	23	89	+2
23	RW	Bobby Brink	13	7	6	13	2	E
24	C	Adam Brooks	47	13	12	25	12	-2
25	RW	Matt Miller	6	1	0	1	0	-2
27	RW	Samu Tuomaala	69	15	28	43	12	-1
28	RW	Olle Lycksell	38	19	20	39	14	+6
37	D	Adam Ginning	58	2	13	15	82	-5
39	C	Jacques Bouquot	1	0	0	0	0	E
46	LW	Matt Brown	13	0	2	2	2	-4
56	C	Jacob Gaucher	59	8	8	16	18	-7
91	LW	Elliot Desnoyers	63	6	16	22	23	-9
92	C	Ryan Johansen	-	-	-	-	-	-
98	D	Victor Mete	59	1	15	16	22	-7

General Manager	Erik Heasley
Head Coach	J.D. Forrest
Assistant Coaches	Kevin Porter, Sheldon Brookbank
Video Coach	Nick Biamonte
Head Athletic Trainer	Seamus McKelvey
Head Equipment Manager	Jared Mycyk

NHL Affiliate	Pittsburgh Penguins
ECHL Affiliate	Wheeling Nailers

General Manager	Barry Hanrahan
Head Coach	Ian Laperrière
Assistant Coaches	Jason Smith, John Snowden
Assistant Coach/Director of Hockey Ops	Bill Downey
Athletic Trainer	Brian Grogesky
Equipment Manager	Jake Rogers

NHL Affiliate	Philadelphia Flyers
ECHL Affiliate	Reading Royals

Tonight's Officials

Referees Riley Brace (49), Jim Curtin (22)

Linesmen Ryan Jackson (92), Kirsten Welsh (10)

Penguins vs. Phantoms Game Notes

For the first time in 10 seasons, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins and Lehigh Valley Phantoms are set to go head-to-head in the Calder Cup Playoffs. Despite playing in 114 regular-season bouts since the Phantoms relocated to Allentown, Pennsylvania in 2014-15, this marks the first postseason meeting between the turnpike rivals. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (39-24-8-1) is making its 19th appearance in the Calder Cup Playoffs and is still vying for its first championship. Lehigh Valley (32-31-6-3) is in the playoffs for the fourth time in its current iteration, but the Philadelphia Phantoms hoisted the Calder Cup in 1998 and 2005. As the 3-seed in the Atlantic Division, the Penguins have home-ice advantage for this best-of-three series against the 6-seed Phantoms.

LAST PLAYOFF APPEARANCES

Penguins

2022 Atlantic Division Semifinal

W-B/Scranton (4) vs. Springfield (1)

Springfield wins series, 3-0: 4-1 (L), 6-2 (L), 7-6 (L)

Goals: W-B/Scranton 9 – Springfield 17 **PP:** 2/11 **PK:** 7/13

Phantoms

2023 Atlantic Division Opening Round

Lehigh Valley (6) vs. Charlotte (3)

Charlotte wins series, 2-1: 4-3 (W), 5-4 2OT (L), 6-0 (L)

Goals: Lehigh Valley 8 – Charlotte 14 **PP:** 1/11 **PK:** 7/11

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins finished their regular season with a 2-0 shutout victory over the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, Ludovic Waeber's first shutout in Black and Gold. After a scoreless first period, Sam Poulin lit the lamp six minutes into the middle frame after being set up in open ice by Valtteri Puustinen. Puustinen picked up his second assist of the night on a tic-tac-toe set up for Radim Zohorna at 3:34 of the third period. Down by two, Lehigh Valley turned up the pressure at different times of the final frame, but Waeber did not yield. Waeber clamped down for 21 saves, dealing the Phantoms their 11th shutout of the season.

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms wrapped up its season-ending three-in-three by trouncing the Charlotte Checkers, 4-1, on Sunday afternoon. A back-and-forth first period ended with the Phantoms up 1-0 on a late, power-play goal by Tanner Laczynski. Zayde Wisdom snapped a four-month goalless drought midway through the second stanza, swiftly followed by another man-advantage marker from Cooper Marody. Elliot Desnoyers put Lehigh Valley ahead by four with 18 seconds left before the second intermission. On the precipice of his first shutout of the season, Felix Sandström had his party spoiled by Wilmer Skoog during a Charlotte power play with 4:07 left in regulation.

TONIGHT'S GAME...

The Penguins and Phantoms square off for Game 1 of their best-of-three playoff series, but this marks the 13th meeting including the regular season. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton won the season series with an 8-1-3-1 record, taking each of the last five decisions. However, it was road teams that had a steep advantage. Away teams combined to go 8-2-1-1 in the season series, including multiple third-period, come-from-behind wins. Lehigh Valley earned eight wins when trailing after the second period this season, tied for most in the league. Three of those victories came against the Penguins at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza. Penguins forward Vinnie Hinostroza led all players in the rivalry with 11 points (3G-8A). During the regular season, Lehigh Valley was shorthanded more than any other team in the league, going to the penalty kill 297 times. Since Mar. 1, the Penguins went 17-for-78 on the power play, good for 21.8%. In that same time, the Phantoms were 72-for-90 (80.0%) on the P.K. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton is 18-23 all-time in Game 1 of a playoff series and 9-8 in Games 1 at home. Lehigh Valley is 3-2 in the first game of a series and 2-1 on the road.

ICE CHIPS...

- Penguins netminder Joel Blomqvist was named to the AHL All-Rookie Team and a Second Team All-Star after finishing third in the league in goals against average (2.16), fifth in save percentage .921 and pacing all rookies with 25 wins.
- Vinnie Hinostroza finished the regular season on a career-best eight-game point streak (4G-5A), the longest active streak in the league at season's end.
- In his last 10 AHL games, Radim Zohorna had six goals and six assists for 12 points.
- Avery Hayes scored in each of his last five home games, amassing all six of his career AHL goals in that time.

PHANTOM MENACE...

- Since returning from injury on Mar. 13, Tanner Laczynski had 18 points (9G-9A) in 16 games, tied for the fifth-highest total in the league.
- Garrett Wilson led the AHL with 216 penalty minutes. He was the first player to reach 200 PIM in a season since 2015-16 (Stu Bickell).
- Emil Andrae led all rookie defensemen with 15 power-play assists. Andrae placed sixth among rookie blueliners in points (32).
- Bobby Brink has recorded at least one point in each of his last six AHL games, amassing four goals and four assists for eight points.

REGULAR-SEASON SERIES...

