

NHL 2025-26 Schedule Structure Report

League-wide evaluation of back-to-backs, travel, compression, rest, and seasonal timing

32 Teams	1,312 Games Analyzed	9 Lowest B2Bs	16 Highest B2Bs	39K Median Est. Miles
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Executive Summary

This report grades all 32 NHL teams on schedule structure only. It does not grade opponent quality, roster strength, injuries, altitude, or competitive context. The model emphasizes the items hockey operations staffs can plan around: back-to-backs, travel miles, compressed stretches, rest advantages, road-trip length, homestand benefits, and timing of difficult segments.

Best Overall Structures	Overall	B2B	Miles	Early	Late
1. Calgary	A+	9	43,836	D	A
2. Detroit	A+	13	32,327	B	A+
3. Winnipeg	A	9	43,467	A-	B+
4. Chicago	A	12	37,084	A+	B-
5. Anaheim	A	11	44,765	A	B+
Most Challenging Structures	Overall	B2B	Miles	Early	Late
28. Columbus	C-	15	36,528	C-	B-
29. Carolina	C-	15	35,468	A	D-
30. Pittsburgh	D	16	35,817	B+	C
31. Montreal	D	16	34,616	A-	D
32. San Jose	D-	16	48,861	C	C

Primary takeaway: The league distribution is not only about travel. Several teams with tougher geography were protected by fewer back-to-backs, while some lower-travel teams absorbed heavier compression and rest-disadvantage patterns.

Methodology and Model Weights

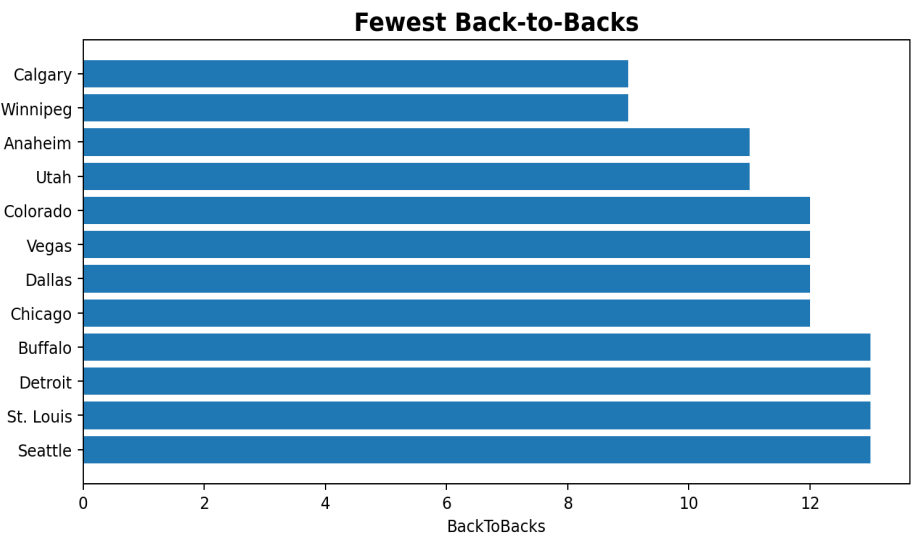
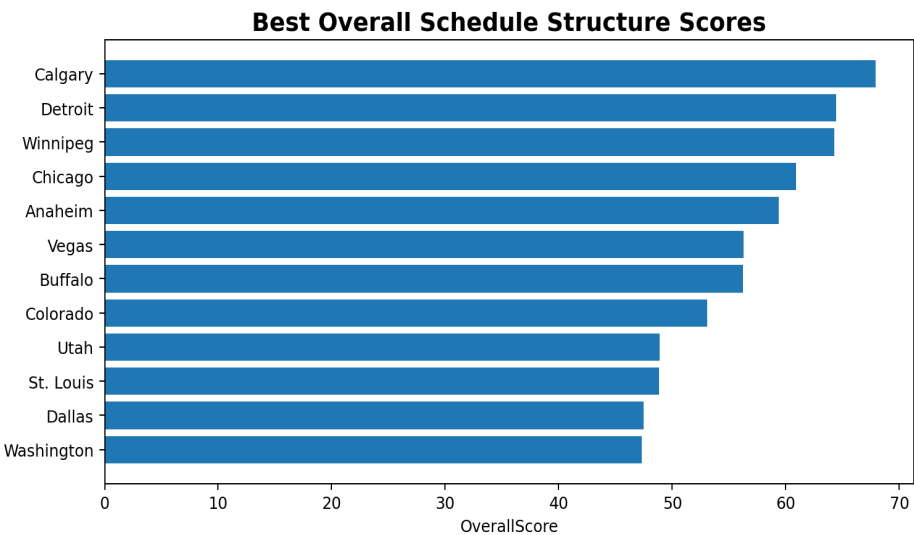
Category	Weight	What It Measures
Back-to-Backs	25%	Total back-to-back sets and second-game fatigue burden
Compression	20%	3-in-4, 4-in-6, and 6-in-10 style schedule density
Travel	18%	Estimated venue-to-venue miles across each club schedule
Home/Away Balance	15%	Longest road trip, longest homestand, rest net, basic home/road symmetry
Late Season	12%	March-April compression and road burden
Early Season	10%	October-November compression and road burden

Important limitation: travel mileage is an estimate using arena/city coordinates between consecutive game venues. It is designed for relative comparison, not expense reporting. Opponent strength is intentionally excluded to keep the analysis focused on schedule structure.

Overall Schedule Structure Rankings

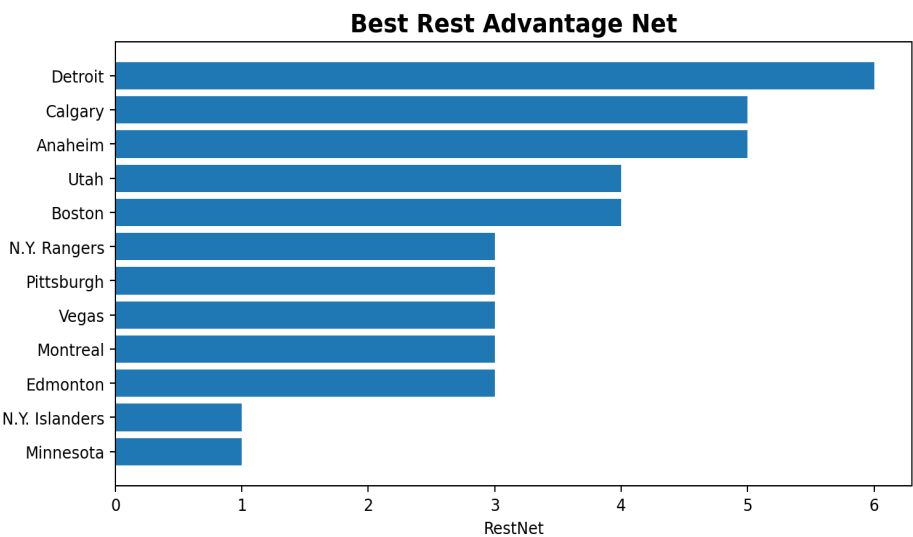
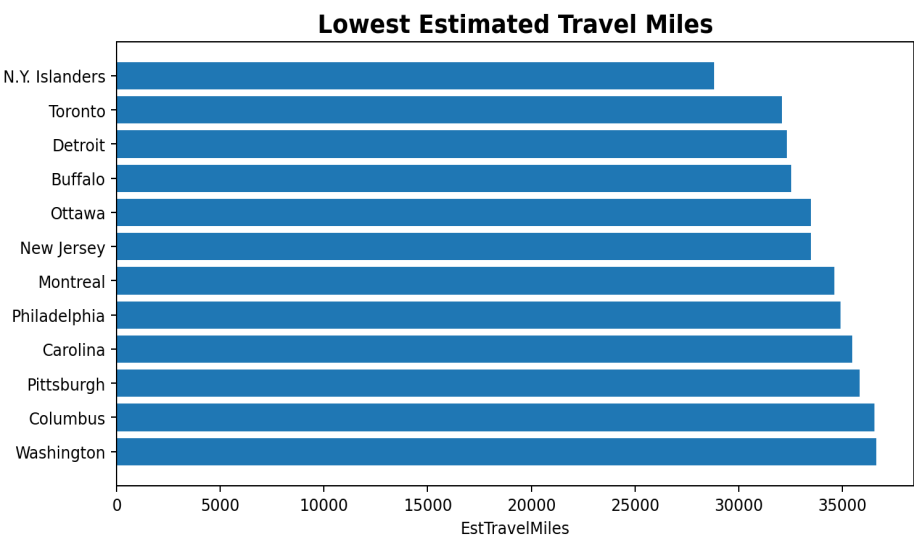
Rank	Team	Grade	B2B	Est. Miles	Rest Net	Max Road	Max Home	Early	Late
1	Calgary	A+	9	43,836	5	6	6	D	A
2	Detroit	A+	13	32,327	6	6	4	B	A+
3	Winnipeg	A	9	43,467	-1	6	8	A-	B+
4	Chicago	A	12	37,084	0	6	4	A+	B-
5	Anaheim	A	11	44,765	5	5	9	A	B+
6	Vegas	A-	12	45,055	3	5	6	B+	A
7	Buffalo	A-	13	32,519	-1	6	5	A	B+
8	Colorado	A-	12	46,609	-4	4	7	C+	B
9	Utah	A-	11	41,659	4	6	7	C-	A-
10	St. Louis	B+	13	39,516	0	5	4	B	B
11	Dallas	B+	12	48,384	-3	6	6	B+	A-
12	Washington	B+	14	36,617	-1	6	4	B-	B+
13	Seattle	B+	13	42,930	-4	6	6	A-	A-
14	N.Y. Rangers	B	13	38,914	3	6	7	C	B
15	Florida	B	13	39,806	-3	6	6	A+	C-
16	New Jersey	B	15	33,480	-4	5	7	B	B-
17	Toronto	B	15	32,078	-2	6	5	B-	C-
18	Vancouver	B-	13	46,103	-2	6	8	C-	A
19	Minnesota	B-	14	36,689	1	7	6	C	A-
20	Ottawa	B-	14	33,465	0	7	5	B	C+
21	N.Y. Islanders	B-	16	28,819	1	7	7	B-	C+
22	Philadelphia	C+	14	34,910	-2	5	6	A-	C
23	Nashville	C+	13	39,374	-2	7	5	B+	C+
24	Los Angeles	C+	16	42,579	1	6	7	C+	B
25	Edmonton	C	13	43,808	3	7	8	D-	A+
26	Boston	C	13	42,674	4	5	5	B-	D
27	Tampa Bay	C	15	40,240	-3	5	7	C+	B-
28	Columbus	C-	15	36,528	1	5	5	C-	B-
29	Carolina	C-	15	35,468	-5	6	7	A	D-
30	Pittsburgh	D	16	35,817	3	5	5	B+	C
31	Montreal	D	16	34,616	3	7	4	A-	D
32	San Jose	D-	16	48,861	-6	5	6	C	C

Visual Summary



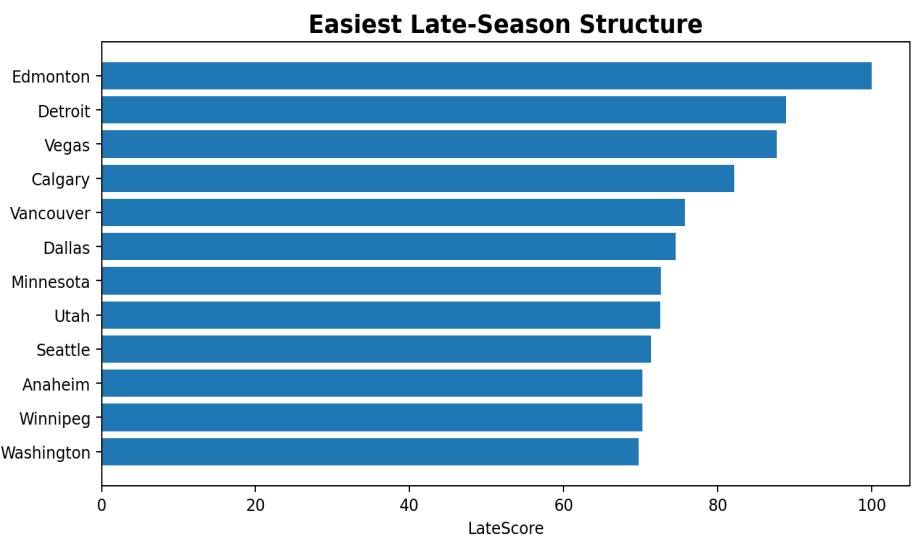
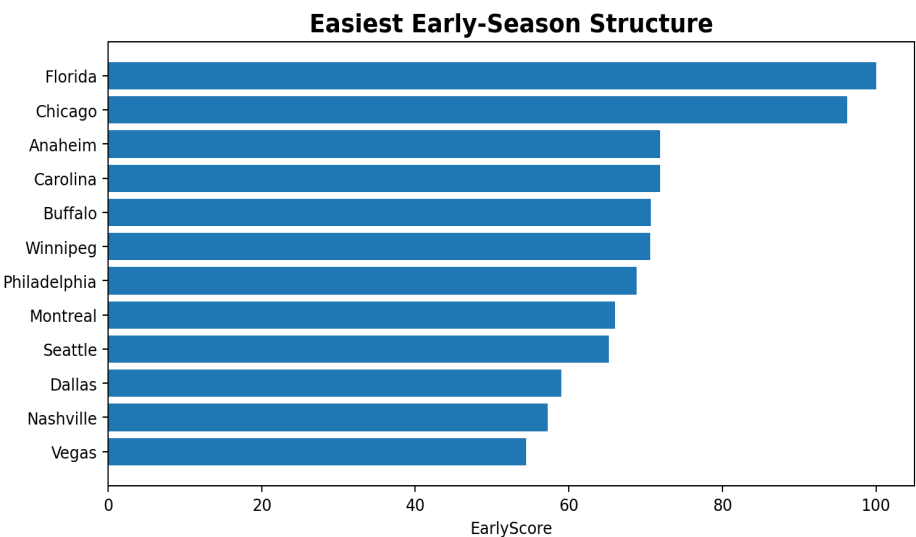
The overall score blends all structure categories. Back-to-back count remains one of the clearest fatigue indicators, but it is not the only driver of difficulty.

Visual Summary



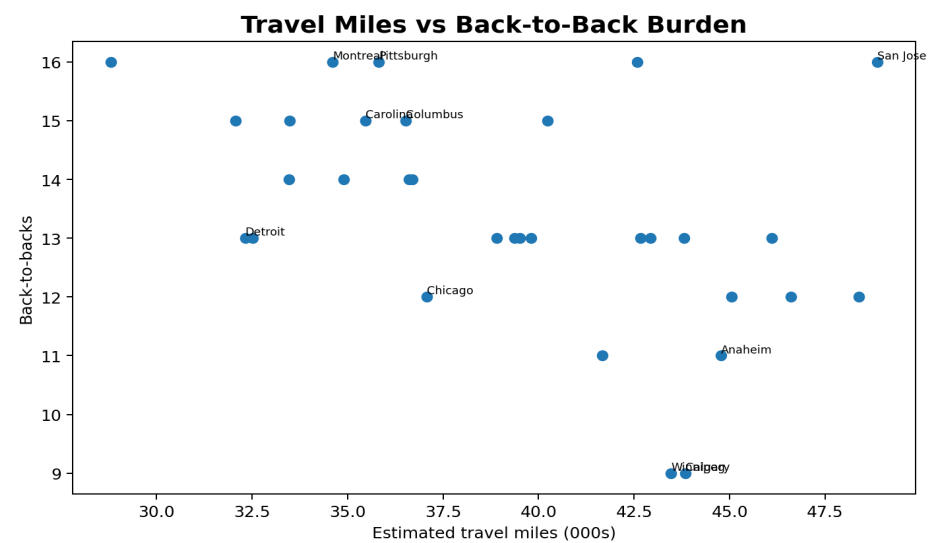
Travel and rest-net patterns are useful for operations planning because they influence arrival routines, recovery days, goalie deployment, and practice availability.

Visual Summary



Early-season and late-season difficulty can look very different. Some clubs absorb a hard opening but receive a more manageable playoff-race run-in, while others face the reverse.

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Back-to-Back Burden Ranking

Rank	Team	Total	Home 2nd	Away 2nd	Grade
1	Calgary	9	1	8	A+
2	Winnipeg	9	4	5	A+
3	Anaheim	11	6	5	A
4	Utah	11	1	10	A
5	Colorado	12	3	9	A
6	Vegas	12	3	9	A
7	Dallas	12	3	9	A
8	Chicago	12	7	5	A
9	Buffalo	13	4	9	A-
10	Detroit	13	5	8	A-
11	St. Louis	13	9	4	A-
12	Seattle	13	3	10	A-
13	Florida	13	4	9	A-
14	N.Y. Rangers	13	10	3	A-
15	Nashville	13	4	9	A-
16	Vancouver	13	5	8	A-
17	Boston	13	6	7	A-
18	Edmonton	13	2	11	A-
19	Philadelphia	14	3	11	B-
20	Washington	14	2	12	B-
21	Ottawa	14	6	8	B-
22	Minnesota	14	7	7	B-
23	New Jersey	15	8	7	C+
24	Toronto	15	4	11	C+
25	Carolina	15	6	9	C+
26	Columbus	15	6	9	C+
27	Tampa Bay	15	4	11	C+
28	N.Y. Islanders	16	6	10	C-
29	Los Angeles	16	5	11	C-
30	Pittsburgh	16	10	6	C-
31	Montreal	16	6	10	C-
32	San Jose	16	8	8	C-

Estimated Travel Burden Ranking

Rank	Team	Est. Miles	Max Road	5+ Road Trips	Grade
1	N.Y. Islanders	28,819	7	2	A+
2	Toronto	32,078	6	2	A+
3	Detroit	32,327	6	3	A
4	Buffalo	32,519	6	2	A
5	Ottawa	33,465	7	2	A
6	New Jersey	33,480	5	2	A-
7	Montreal	34,616	7	2	A-
8	Philadelphia	34,910	5	1	A-
9	Carolina	35,468	6	1	A-
10	Pittsburgh	35,817	5	1	B+
11	Columbus	36,528	5	1	B+
12	Washington	36,617	6	1	B+
13	Minnesota	36,689	7	2	B+
14	Chicago	37,084	6	2	B
15	N.Y. Rangers	38,914	6	1	B
16	Nashville	39,374	7	3	B
17	St. Louis	39,516	5	1	B
18	Florida	39,806	6	3	B-
19	Tampa Bay	40,240	5	1	B-
20	Utah	41,659	6	2	B-
21	Los Angeles	42,579	6	3	B-
22	Boston	42,674	5	1	C+
23	Seattle	42,930	6	4	C+
24	Winnipeg	43,467	6	2	C+
25	Edmonton	43,808	7	3	C
26	Calgary	43,836	6	4	C
27	Anaheim	44,765	5	3	C
28	Vegas	45,055	5	2	C-
29	Vancouver	46,103	6	3	C-
30	Colorado	46,609	4	0	D
31	Dallas	48,384	6	1	D
32	San Jose	48,861	5	3	D-

Schedule Compression Ranking

Rank	Team	3-in-4 starts	4-in-6 starts	6-in-10 starts	Grade
1	Calgary	10	12	9	A+
2	Colorado	14	13	10	A+
3	Detroit	14	14	12	A
4	Chicago	17	13	13	A
5	Toronto	16	18	8	A
6	Vegas	14	15	18	A-
7	Vancouver	17	15	15	A-
8	Los Angeles	16	18	12	A-
9	Dallas	16	17	15	A-
10	Washington	18	17	13	B+
11	Winnipeg	16	19	15	B+
12	St. Louis	18	17	17	B+
13	Buffalo	19	18	14	B+
14	Seattle	14	20	18	B
15	New Jersey	16	18	19	B
16	Anaheim	15	18	21	B
17	Florida	17	18	19	B
18	N.Y. Rangers	18	19	18	B-
19	San Jose	16	19	22	B-
20	N.Y. Islanders	19	20	18	B-
21	Minnesota	20	22	16	B-
22	Ottawa	20	23	15	C+
23	Tampa Bay	19	22	20	C+
24	Utah	17	22	24	C+
25	Boston	20	23	19	C
26	Nashville	20	25	17	C
27	Carolina	21	22	21	C
28	Columbus	19	26	22	C-
29	Philadelphia	22	24	23	C-
30	Edmonton	20	26	27	D
31	Montreal	20	27	26	D
32	Pittsburgh	25	26	22	D-

Home/Away and Rest Ranking

Rank	Team	Rest Adv	Rest Dis	Net	Max Home	Grade
1	Anaheim	14	9	5	9	A+
2	Colorado	6	10	-4	7	A+
3	Vegas	8	5	3	6	A
4	Boston	11	7	4	5	A
5	Utah	11	7	4	7	A
6	Pittsburgh	11	8	3	5	A-
7	N.Y. Rangers	8	5	3	7	A-
8	Calgary	11	6	5	6	A-
9	Tampa Bay	8	11	-3	7	A-
10	Columbus	10	9	1	5	B+
11	New Jersey	7	11	-4	7	B+
12	Winnipeg	7	8	-1	8	B+
13	Philadelphia	8	10	-2	6	B+
14	Los Angeles	11	10	1	7	B
15	Vancouver	8	10	-2	8	B
16	Edmonton	11	8	3	8	B
17	Detroit	13	7	6	4	B
18	St. Louis	10	10	0	4	B-
19	San Jose	7	13	-6	6	B-
20	N.Y. Islanders	10	9	1	7	B-
21	Carolina	4	9	-5	7	B-
22	Florida	8	11	-3	6	C+
23	Dallas	5	8	-3	6	C+
24	Buffalo	9	10	-1	5	C+
25	Seattle	6	10	-4	6	C
26	Toronto	6	8	-2	5	C
27	Minnesota	11	10	1	6	C
28	Chicago	12	12	0	4	C-
29	Washington	9	10	-1	4	C-
30	Montreal	11	8	3	4	D
31	Ottawa	9	9	0	5	D
32	Nashville	5	7	-2	5	D-

Early-Season Structure Ranking

Rank	Team	Games	B2B	Away	Grade
1	Florida	24	1	10	A+
2	Chicago	25	1	11	A+
3	Anaheim	25	2	13	A
4	Carolina	25	2	13	A
5	Buffalo	25	3	10	A
6	Winnipeg	24	2	13	A-
7	Philadelphia	24	3	11	A-
8	Montreal	24	3	12	A-
9	Seattle	24	3	12	A-
10	Dallas	26	3	13	B+
11	Nashville	25	4	10	B+
12	Vegas	25	4	11	B+
13	Pittsburgh	24	4	12	B+
14	Detroit	26	4	11	B
15	Ottawa	25	3	14	B
16	New Jersey	25	3	14	B
17	St. Louis	26	4	12	B
18	N.Y. Islanders	26	4	13	B-
19	Toronto	25	5	10	B-
20	Boston	27	4	13	B-
21	Washington	26	5	11	B-
22	Tampa Bay	25	5	12	C+
23	Colorado	25	5	13	C+
24	Los Angeles	25	4	15	C+
25	San Jose	26	6	11	C
26	Minnesota	26	6	11	C
27	N.Y. Rangers	27	4	16	C
28	Columbus	25	5	14	C-
29	Vancouver	26	5	15	C-
30	Utah	26	5	15	C-
31	Calgary	27	5	17	D
32	Edmonton	26	5	17	D-

Late-Season Structure Ranking

Rank	Team	Games	B2B	Away	Grade
1	Edmonton	21	2	9	A+
2	Detroit	22	2	11	A+
3	Vegas	23	2	11	A
4	Calgary	24	2	12	A
5	Vancouver	23	3	10	A
6	Dallas	23	3	10	A-
7	Minnesota	22	3	11	A-
8	Utah	23	3	11	A-
9	Seattle	23	3	11	A-
10	Anaheim	24	3	11	B+
11	Winnipeg	24	3	11	B+
12	Washington	20	3	11	B+
13	Buffalo	22	4	9	B+
14	N.Y. Rangers	23	4	9	B
15	St. Louis	23	2	14	B
16	Los Angeles	22	4	10	B
17	Colorado	24	3	13	B
18	Chicago	23	3	13	B-
19	Columbus	23	4	11	B-
20	New Jersey	22	5	9	B-
21	Tampa Bay	24	4	12	B-
22	Nashville	23	4	13	C+
23	Ottawa	23	5	11	C+
24	N.Y. Islanders	22	6	9	C+
25	San Jose	25	5	12	C
26	Pittsburgh	24	5	12	C
27	Philadelphia	23	5	12	C
28	Toronto	22	5	13	C-
29	Florida	23	4	15	C-
30	Montreal	23	6	12	D
31	Boston	23	6	13	D
32	Carolina	23	5	15	D-

Appendix: Reading the Tables

Metric	Definition
B2B	Number of times a team plays on consecutive calendar days.
Home 2nd / Away 2nd	Whether the second game of a back-to-back is at home or on the road.
3-in-4 / 4-in-6 / 6-in-10	Count of starting points where a team enters a compressed game window.
Rest Advantage	Opponent played the previous day while the team did not.
Rest Disadvantage	Team played the previous day while the opponent did not.
Rest Net	Rest Advantage minus Rest Disadvantage.
Max Road / Max Home	Longest consecutive road-trip or homestand segment.
Estimated Miles	Venue-to-venue great-circle mileage based on arena/city coordinates.

This report is best used as a planning layer for hockey operations: goalie workload, recovery, practice days, travel staffing, pre-scout timing, and player-performance monitoring.