

New York Islanders at New York Rangers

NHL | Regular | October 6, 2026

Checked Oct 06, 01:08 PM Toronto | prepared snapshot, not live

Away	New York Islanders
Home	New York Rangers
Venue	Madison Square Garden, New York, NY, USA
Scheduled start	Oct 06, 07:30 PM Toronto
Game evidence	S1 source event 401892452

Provisional prediction

Expected score	New York Islanders 2.8 - New York Rangers 2.8
Winner lean	New York Islanders model probability 51.9%
Margin / total	Home minus away -0.1 goals; total 5.6
Spread meaning	Model margin, not a bookmaker spread or a claim of value.

Lineups not fully set. Historical scoring baseline; probable personnel shown as context, not numeric adjustments. Probabilities are uncalibrated model estimates.

What matters in this matchup

New York Islanders: 2 completed current-season games; 1 wins, 7 goals for and 2 against. Read the shot, special-teams and scoring-state reviews before interpreting the record.

New York Rangers: 4 completed current-season games; 3 wins, 11 goals for and 6 against. Read the shot, special-teams and scoring-state reviews before interpreting the record.

Tonight's goalie and line decisions can change the outlook. The experimental baseline below does not adjust for confirmed goalies, missing players or opponent shot quality.

Use and confidence

Early research estimate. Small winner differences are weak leans; model probability is not proven accuracy. Recheck personnel and current prices before relying on it.

1. Availability and playing conditions

New York Islanders - away

Semyon Varlamov - CONFIRMED BY NHL REPORT [S2]

Goalie names in a statistics feed can be candidates or past participants. They are not confirmed starters unless a direct confirmation is recorded.

Primary-source correction: Varlamov will start. The ESPN snapshot still lists Sorokin; that listing is superseded for starter identity. The baseline contains no Varlamov-specific adjustment.

Captured injury listings [S1]

Player	Reported status / issue	Source effective date
Mathew Barzal	Injured Reserve / Knee	2026-09-30T14:58Z

Final lineup, scratches, replacement roles and any restrictions still require a near-start check. Listed return dates are not clearance.

New York Rangers - home

Igor Shesterkin - LISTED - NOT CONFIRMED [S1]; Dylan Garand - LISTED - NOT CONFIRMED [S1]

Goalie names in a statistics feed can be candidates or past participants. They are not confirmed starters unless a direct confirmation is recorded.

Captured injury listings [S1]

Player	Reported status / issue	Source effective date
Joe Veleno	Injured Reserve / Lower Body	2026-10-06T16:25Z
Joonas Korpisalo	Injured Reserve / Lower Body	2026-10-01T17:24Z
Aidan Thompson	Injured Reserve / Undisclosed	2026-09-29T16:39Z
Adam Sykora	Injured Reserve / Lower Body	2026-09-29T01:35Z

Final lineup, scratches, replacement roles and any restrictions still require a near-start check. Listed return dates are not clearance.

Location and conditions

Indoor arena: outdoor wind and precipitation are not direct playing-surface inputs. Travel disruption was not assessed. [S1]

Rest and travel

New York Islanders: last completed phase game 2026-10-03, 2 full calendar off-days; New York Rangers: last completed phase game 2026-10-04, 1 full calendar off-days. Actual travel itinerary, time-zone adaptation and numerical fatigue effect are unverified.

2. New York Islanders - recent game evidence

Current regular chronology [S3]

Date	Opponent / venue role	Score (team first)
2026-09-30	Toronto Maple Leafs / away	1-2
2026-10-03	New Jersey Devils / home	6-0

NHL: every completed regular-season game in the current source schedule is summarized below. NBA: available preseason games only. MLB: every completed current postseason game, not a claim of reviewing all 162 regular-season games.

2026-09-30 | away vs Toronto Maple Leafs | L 1-2 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 0-2; 2: 0-0; 3: 1-0 [S4]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	27	26
Power play goals	0	1
Power play opportunities	4	4
Giveaways	12	15
Penalty minutes	8	8

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 7:14 0-1 Even Strength; P1 11:55 0-2 Power Play; P3 14:09 1-2 Shorthanded

Emil Heineman: Goals 1, Assists 0, Shots total 1, Time on ice 13:26. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Bo Horvat: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 4, Time on ice 22:31. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Casey Cizikas: Goals 0, Assists 0, Shots total 0, Time on ice 9:29. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +1. Final score and shot volume do not tell the same story; finishing and goaltending need separate review.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

2026-10-03 | home vs New Jersey Devils | W 6-0 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 0-0; 2: 3-0; 3: 3-0 [S5]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	32	37
Power play goals	1	0
Power play opportunities	3	5
Giveaways	21	17
Penalty minutes	10	6

Recorded scoring sequence: P2 3:32 1-0 Even Strength; P2 5:00 2-0 Even Strength; P2 12:08 3-0 Power Play; P3 11:32 4-0 Even Strength; P3 12:14 5-0 Even Strength; P3 18:41 6-0 Shorthanded

Casey Cizikas: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 4, Time on ice 14:05. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Victor Eklund: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 1, Time on ice 12:32. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Simon Holmstrom: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 1, Time on ice 16:46. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin -5. Final score and shot volume do not tell the same story; finishing and goaltending need separate review.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

Evidence limit: score-state and box-score review does not by itself establish tactics, quality of chances, causal luck, or opponent-adjusted team strength.

2. New York Rangers - recent game evidence

Current regular chronology [S6]

Date	Opponent / venue role	Score (team first)
2026-09-29	Boston Bruins / away	0-3
2026-10-01	Tampa Bay Lightning / home	5-1
2026-10-02	Detroit Red Wings / away	2-0
2026-10-04	Utah Mammoth / home	4-2

NHL: every completed regular-season game in the current source schedule is summarized below. NBA: available preseason games only. MLB: every completed current postseason game, not a claim of reviewing all 162 regular-season games.

2026-09-29 | away vs Boston Bruins | L 0-3 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 0-0; 2: 0-0; 3: 0-3 [S7]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	24	23
Power play goals	0	0
Power play opportunities	1	1
Giveaways	20	10
Penalty minutes	2	2

Recorded scoring sequence: P3 16:14 0-1 Even Strength; P3 17:06 0-2 Even Strength; P3 17:29 0-3 Empty Net

Oliver Bjorkstrand: Goals 0, Assists 0, Shots total 4, Time on ice 14:33. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Will Cuylle: Goals 0, Assists 0, Shots total 3, Time on ice 15:03. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Pavel Dorofeyev: Goals 0, Assists 0, Shots total 5, Time on ice 15:49. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +1. Final score and shot volume do not tell the same story; finishing and goaltending need separate review.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

2026-10-01 | home vs Tampa Bay Lightning | W 5-1 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 2-0; 2: 2-1; 3: 1-0 [S8]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	25	24
Power play goals	1	0
Power play opportunities	2	7
Giveaways	18	22
Penalty minutes	16	6

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 5:34 1-0 Power Play; P1 10:51 2-0 Even Strength; P2 1:40 3-0 Even Strength; P2 7:59 3-1 Even Strength; P2 16:01 4-1 Even Strength; P3 17:26 5-1 Empty Net

Pavel Dorofeyev: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 5, Time on ice 13:44. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Mika Zibanejad: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 3, Time on ice 18:53. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Adam Fox: Goals 0, Assists 2, Shots total 0, Time on ice 19:04. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +1. The result and shot-volume advantage point in the same direction.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

2026-10-02 | away vs Detroit Red Wings | W 2-0 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 1-0; 2: 0-0; 3: 1-0 [S9]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	21	22
Power play goals	1	0
Power play opportunities	4	2
Giveaways	11	13
Penalty minutes	11	15

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 5:12 1-0 Power Play; P3 18:44 2-0 Empty Net

Will Cuyllé: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 2, Time on ice 14:43. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Tye Kartye: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 1, Time on ice 15:12. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Gabe Perreault: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 2, Time on ice 15:24. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin -1. Final score and shot volume do not tell the same story; finishing and goaltending need separate review.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

2026-10-04 | home vs Utah Mammoth | W 4-2 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 1-0; 2: 0-1; 3: 3-1 [S10]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	22	30
Power play goals	0	1
Power play opportunities	4	2
Giveaways	18	13
Penalty minutes	13	17

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 17:18 1-0 Even Strength; P2 14:29 1-1 Power Play; P3 3:15 2-1 Even Strength; P3 12:47 3-1 Even Strength; P3 14:57 3-2 Even Strength; P3 18:45 4-2 Empty Net

Vladislav Gavrikov: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 3, Time on ice 19:09. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Will Cuyllé: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 2, Time on ice 14:06. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Tye Kartye: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 2, Time on ice 15:18. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin -8. Final score and shot volume do not tell the same story; finishing and goaltending need separate review.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

Evidence limit: score-state and box-score review does not by itself establish tactics, quality of chances, causal luck, or opponent-adjusted team strength.

3. Matchup interpretation and key players

New York Islanders

Current phase: 2 games, 1 wins; scoring average 3.50 for / 1.00 against. These are descriptive averages, not projected scores.

Current feed metric	Value
Avg goals	3.50
Avg goals against	1.00
Avg shots	29.5
Avg shots against	31.5
Power play pct	14.3
Penalty kill pct	88.9

Feed season scope: 2 completed current-phase games in the captured schedule; metrics are all-strength where supplied. No five-on-five xG model is inferred. [S1]

New York Rangers

Current phase: 4 games, 3 wins; scoring average 2.75 for / 1.50 against. These are descriptive averages, not projected scores.

Current feed metric	Value
Avg goals	2.75
Avg goals against	1.50
Avg shots	23.0
Avg shots against	24.8
Power play pct	18.2
Penalty kill pct	91.7

Feed season scope: 4 completed current-phase games in the captured schedule; metrics are all-strength where supplied. No five-on-five xG model is inferred. [S1]

How to read the matchup

Compare the two recent-game sections: did score and underlying volume agree, did the game change late, and did current absences affect the players producing those numbers? Where shot-quality, possession or bullpen detail is missing, the report cannot declare a repeatable style edge.

Conditional game scripts

If one team sustains a shot-volume and special-teams advantage, it has a plausible territorial route to scoring. A different goalie, changed lines or poor conversion can break that route. This is a conditional scenario, not a claim that tonight's deployment is confirmed.

4. Executed simulations and prediction limits

EXPERIMENTAL TEAM-SCORE BASELINE. This run is real and reproducible, but is not adjusted for the personnel, injuries, game-flow evidence, weather or tactical factors described in this report. It supplies the provisional prediction on page one; no accuracy or betting edge is established.	
Scenario win share	New York Islanders 51.9% New York Rangers 48.1%
Average sampled score	New York Islanders 2.83 New York Rangers 2.78
Total scenarios	Mean 5.61; central 80% sampled totals 3-9
Trials / seed	100,000 / 1859254783
Raw ties	16.4%; assumed 50/50 winner split
Run completed	2026-10-06T17:08:30.505307+00:00
Input hash	See retained JSON run record

Method: pooled venue scoring/conceding moments; independent negative-binomial draws where overdispersed, otherwise Poisson. For NHL, current completed regular-season results augment the preserved prior sample. NBA preseason estimates explicitly transfer preserved regular-season scoring without a rotation model. There is no opponent-strength, roster, goalie/pitcher or recency adjustment. Historical NHL overtime/shootout scores are included; raw ties are not regulation ties. MLB postseason transfer remains unvalidated.

Monte Carlo repeat-run error approximately +/- 0.31 percentage points at 95%. This only measures simulation noise; it excludes model and input uncertainty. No accuracy, calibration or ROI is claimed.

New York Islanders: 84 historical qualifying games; 42 in this venue role. Latest input 2026-10-03T23:30Z.

New York Rangers: 86 historical qualifying games; 43 in this venue role. Latest input 2026-10-04T22:00Z.

Spread and total probabilities

DraftKings via ESPN, captured 2026-10-06T17:00:45.115895+00:00 [S1]. Snapshot, not a live available offer.

Captured spread	New York Rangers -1.5; model cover 25.5%; away cover 74.5%; push 0.0%
Captured total	5.5; model over 48.2%; under 51.8%; push 0.0%

These fractions come from the same uncalibrated score scenarios. Price, bookmaker availability and edge are not established. NHL historical shootout scores and fair random tie breaking are a proxy, not exact sportsbook settlement.

Conditional player-prop outlook

Bo Horvat | New York Islanders

Conditional expected shots on goal: 4.0; 3+ probability 76.2%. Observed sample 2 games: 4.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.2-4.8. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S4, S5

Ondrej Palat | New York Islanders

Conditional expected shots on goal: 3.0; 3+ probability 57.7%. Observed sample 2 games: 2.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 2.4-3.6. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S4, S5

Kyle Palmieri | New York Islanders

Conditional expected shots on goal: 3.0; 3+ probability 57.7%. Observed sample 2 games: 4.0, 2.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 2.4-3.6. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S4, S5

Pavel Dorofeyev | New York Rangers

Conditional expected shots on goal: 3.8; 3+ probability 72.3%. Observed sample 4 games: 5.0, 5.0, 2.0, 3.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.0-4.5. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S7, S8, S9, S10

Will Cuyile | New York Rangers

Conditional expected shots on goal: 2.5; 3+ probability 45.6%. Observed sample 4 games: 3.0, 3.0, 2.0, 2.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 2.0-3.0. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S7, S8, S9, S10

Alexis Lafreniere | New York Rangers

Conditional expected shots on goal: 2.0; 3+ probability 32.3%. Observed sample 4 games: 0.0, 3.0, 1.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 1.6-2.4. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S7, S8, S9, S10

What changes the prediction

Different starter; scratch or minutes restriction; changed batting order/rotation; material weather change; corrected source results. The current model does not recompute player-specific team adjustments. This prepared report does not refresh itself.

5. Sources and freshness

Source numbers refer to the captured snapshots below. This is a prepared report; personnel and conditions may change before the game.

S1 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:45.115895+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401892452>

S2 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:08:30.258283+00:00

<https://www.nhl.com/news/new-york-islanders-semyon-varlamov-to-make-first-start-since-2024>

S3 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:47.037342+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/teams/12/schedule?season=2027&seasontype=2>

S4 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:50.073157+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401892431>

S5 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:51.535143+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891818>

S6 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:47.252370+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/teams/13/schedule?season=2027&seasontype=2>

S7 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:52.192286+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891774>

S8 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:52.286731+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891819>

S9 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:50.593504+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891803>

S10 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:51.037038+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401892443>

Release status: PROVISIONAL RESEARCH. Predictions and conditional prop scenarios are experimental and unvalidated. All 23 catalog entries remain DRAFT; validated forecasts remain disabled.