

= 2008 ? 09 Pittsburgh Penguins season =

The 2008 ? 09 Pittsburgh Penguins season was the 42nd season of Pittsburgh Penguins in the National Hockey League (NHL) . The regular season began with two games against the Ottawa Senators in Stockholm , Sweden on October 4 and October 5 , 2008 .

On February 15 , the team had a record of 27 ? 25 ? 5 and was five points out of playoff position . The organization fired head coach Michel Therrien and replaced him with Dan Bylsma , head coach of the organization 's American Hockey League affiliate in Wilkes @-@ Barre . On February 26 , the team traded defenseman Ryan Whitney to the Anaheim Ducks in return for Chris Kunitz . Before the trade deadline on March 4 , they acquired Bill Guerin from the New York Islanders . Under Bylsma , the team went 18 ? 3 ? 4 , including 10 ? 1 ? 2 in March , and lost only one home game .

The Penguins qualified for the playoffs for the third consecutive season . They did not repeat as champions of the Atlantic Division , but earned the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference with 99 points . They began the 2009 Stanley Cup playoffs on April 15 against the Philadelphia Flyers . They beat the Flyers , Washington Capitals , and Carolina Hurricanes to earn a second @-@ straight berth in the Stanley Cup Final . In the Finals , the Penguins defeated the Detroit Red Wings in seven games in a rematch of the previous season 's Stanley Cup Final to win the franchise 's third league title .

= = Pre @-@ season = =

Due to their appearance in the 2008 Stanley Cup Finals , the Penguins had less than three weeks before free agency began to settle numerous contract decisions . The Penguins added nine free agents and lost ten to other teams . Head Coach Michel Therrien also signed a new three @-@ year contract that replaced the last year of his existing contract , with an increase in salary . The new contract was projected to keep him with the Penguins through the 2010 ? 11 season .

The Penguins renewed 99 % of their season ticket sales from the 2007 ? 08 season ; having sold out 67 consecutive games at Mellon Arena dating back to the 2006 ? 07 season . In July , ESPN named Pittsburgh the top team in the Eastern Conference , and Sporting News predicted the team would finish in the league 's fifth overall position .

The team commenced training camp on September 16 , 2008 in Pittsburgh . They played five pre @-@ season games in preparation for the season , finishing with a 4 ? 0 ? 1 record . The team concluded its preparation for the season with practices in Stockholm . Defensemen Sergei Gonchar was injured in the pre @-@ season opener and originally anticipated to miss " four to six months . " He appeared for the first time on February 14 , 2009 . With Gonchar out of the lineup and previous season 's two other alternate captains Ryan Malone and Gary Roberts departed , the Penguins began the season with no returning alternate captains in the lineup . Therrien selected two alternate captains each month ; Evgeni Malkin and Brooks Orpik served the role throughout the opening month .

= = Regular season = =

= = = October = = =

On September 27 , the Penguins embarked on a trip for Sweden where they opened the season against the Ottawa Senators , at the Stockholm Globe Arena . The Penguins were one of four teams to participate in NHL Premiere which began the season with games in Prague , Czech Republic and Stockholm , Sweden . Pittsburgh won the opening game of the season in overtime , getting two goals from Tyler Kennedy , including the game @-@ winner . The game was broadcast on Mellon Arena 's JumboTron where 2 @, @ 300 spectators watched the game . The team returned to Pittsburgh after ten days in Europe and a 1 ? 1 ? 0 record . The Penguins hosted the Trib Total Media Faceoff Festival 2008 prior to their first four home games , allowing fans to watch the games

on 9 @-@ by @-@ 12 foot LED screen outside of Mellon Arena . On October 18 , Sidney Crosby scored one goal in addition to three assists to surpass benchmarks of 100 goals , 200 assists , and 300 total points for his career . In the same game , Evgeni Malkin assisted on four goals , giving him 200 total career points .

The Penguins received continued fan support from their previous season . In addition to extending a home sellout streak to 72 games on October 23 , the Penguins ranked 113 % above the national average for male television viewers aged 18 to 34 . The franchise ranked as the 18th most valuable in the league at US \$ 195 million , marking a 26 % increase from the past season . According to Forbes , the franchise 's revenue would likely put the Penguins into the top ten after their new arena , Consol Energy Center , opened in 2010 . The Penguins finished October with a 3 ? 1 ? 1 record in Pittsburgh and concluded the month with three consecutive road losses .

= = = November = = =

The Penguins won their first six games in November before losing in a shootout on November 18 . Rob Scuderi and Hal Gill were selected by Therrien to be November 's alternate captains , taking over for Brooks Orpik and Malkin who served in October . On November 11 , the Penguins returned to Detroit for the first time since the 2008 Stanley Cup Finals . The third goal of Jordan Staal 's second career hat @-@ trick came with 22 @.@ 8 seconds remaining in regulation , sending the game into overtime where the Penguins achieved a 7 ? 6 victory . Malkin 's 13 @-@ game point streak ended on November 18 , during the streak he scored 27 points . Through November 19 , the Penguins led the league in overtime games with nine of 18 games taking extra time to decide . Through the first 20 games of the season , Mike Zigomanis led the league in faceoff percentage and Alex Goligoski led rookie defensemen in points . After an injury to Marc @-@ Andre Fleury , Dany Sabourin and rookie John Curry split goaltending duties in his multi @-@ game absence in which the team was 5 ? 6 ? 2 . On November 26 , Malkin scored three goals for his third career hat @-@ trick , three days later Sidney Crosby also achieved a hat trick ? the second of his career . After the team 's final game of the month , Malkin and Crosby ranked first and second in league scoring with 39 and 34 points respectively . Malkin also ranked first in the league with 29 assists , and was named the NHL 's second Star of the Month .

= = = December = = =

Therrien named Jordan Staal and Matt Cooke December 's alternate captains . " I think it 's important for our young group to try to extend the leadership group , " the coach said of the decision . A survey by Turnkey Sports & Entertainment released on December 2 that surveyed fans of all 122 NFL , NBA , NHL and MLB teams ranked the Penguins eighth . The survey consisted of 21 categories such as entertainment value , commitment to winning , ticket value and likeability of the players and owners . Ranked 20th in the same poll in 2007 , the Penguins were the second @-@ ranked NHL team , behind the Detroit Red Wings . The Penguins began the month with seven games in eleven days in which they were 2 ? 4 ? 1 . As of December 10 , Crosby and Malkin continued to lead the league in points as well as leading voting for the All @-@ Star Game in Montreal . On December 11 , after losing three consecutive games , Petr Sykora and Pascal Dupuis each scored their first career hat @-@ tricks in a 9 ? 2 victory over the New York Islanders in Pittsburgh . It was the seventh time in the Penguins ' history that two players scored a hat @-@ trick in the same game , the first since 1993 .

On December 21 , Sidney Crosby surpassed the record for most All @-@ Star Game votes at 1 @.@ 020 @.@ 736 , set by Jaromir Jagr , then with the Penguins , in 2000 . Crosby broke the record with 13 days remaining in voting . Defenceman Ryan Whitney made his first appearance of the season on December 23 , after missing 33 games with a foot injury . On December 26 , Marc @-@ Andre Fleury made 37 saves in Pittsburgh 's first shutout of the season , defeating the New Jersey Devils , 1 ? 0 . After concluding the month with a 5 ? 8 ? 1 record , the team held a players @-@ only meeting on December 30 . " The attitude is a little off right now , " said Brooks Orpik , " It

's easy to be a good team when you 're winning games . When you 're going through rough batches like this , it 's what tests guys ' character . "

= = = January = = =

The Penguins began 2009 with three consecutive losses , extending their losing streak to five games ? the most consecutive since 2006 . During the streak , the Penguins fell from second to ninth place in the Eastern Conference and failed to score on 32 consecutive power plays .

Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin led all players in voting for the 2009 All @-@ Star Game . However , Crosby did not play due to a knee injury . The top vote @-@ getter for the second year in a row , Crosby also missed the 2008 All @-@ Star Game . On January 8 , the team announced that they had agreed to a four @-@ year contract extension with Jordan Staal worth \$ 16 million . Staal 's rookie contract was set to expire at the end of the season . He was the Penguins first round pick , second overall in 2006 .

The team suffered from injuries , culminating in January where at one point they had eight starters injured . Mike Zigomanis had been inactive since December 3 and Ruslan Fedotenko was ruled out for four to six weeks after breaking his hand on January 6 . Sergei Gonchar practiced with the team for the first time on January 16 after suffering a separated shoulder during the pre @-@ season . By that time , the Penguins had lost 173 man @-@ games due to injury , after losing 239 in the entire 2007 ? 08 season . With a 3 ? 0 victory over the New York Rangers on January 18 , the Penguins won a second consecutive game for the first time since November 15 . However , the team was unable to capitalize and lost their last game before the All @-@ Star break to the Carolina Hurricanes . The Penguins entered the break with a 23 ? 21 ? 4 record . The team 's 50 points put them in tenth place in the Eastern Conference , two spots out of the playoffs .

= = = February = = =

On February 14 , Sergei Gonchar made his season debut and Ruslan Fedotenko returned to the line @-@ up after missing over a month due to a hand injury . On February 15 ? with the Penguins five points out of the playoffs ? Therrien was replaced by Dan Bylsma , the coach of the Penguins ' AHL affiliate Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton , on an interim basis . Tom Fitzgerald was promoted from Director of Player Development to assistant coach for forwards , while Mike Yeo , already with the team , became assistant for the defensemen . Assistant Andre Savard was reassigned within the organization .

On February 21 , Crosby recorded his 250th career assist in a 2 goal , 2 assist victory over the Philadelphia Flyers . On February 25 , Fleury recorded his third shutout of the season , as the Penguins defeated the Islanders 1 ? 0 ; the team remained two points out of the playoffs after the win . The day after the shutout , Ryan Whitney was traded to the Anaheim Ducks for Chris Kunitz and signing rights to prospect Eric Tangradi . In his first game after being traded to Pittsburgh , Kunitz recorded a goal and an assist as the Penguins defeated the Chicago Blackhawks in overtime .

= = = March = = =

The Penguins began March with five of six games on the road , before a homestand of eight consecutive games . Upon the Penguins ' win on March 1 , the team moved into eighth place in the Eastern Conference with 70 points . The NHL trade deadline was on March 4 . On March 3 , the Penguins placed Miroslav Satan on waivers to clear roster space for a trade . Before the deadline , the Penguins acquired New York Islanders ' captain Bill Guerin in exchange for a conditional draft pick in the 2009 draft . The Penguins also exchanged minor league defensemen , sending Danny Richmond to the St. Louis Blues organization for Andy Wozniewski . They also claimed winger Craig Adams off waivers from the Chicago Blackhawks . Dan Bylsma surpassed Herb Brooks ' record for the best record in his first ten games as a Penguins ' coach . The team went a franchise @-@ first 5

? 0 ? 0 on a road trip at the beginning of March .

On March 15 , the Penguins soldout their 100th consecutive game at the Mellon Arena . Evgeni Malkin recorded his 100th point of the season while tying a career @-@ high five point game against the Atlanta Thrashers on March 17 . On March 20 , Vince Lascheid , Penguins and Pittsburgh Pirates organist of 33 years , died . Vice President of Communications Tom McMillan said , " [Lascheid] probably is the only organist in the history of professional sports to be inducted into a team Hall of Fame . " The Penguins concluded March with eight consecutive games at the Mellon Arena ? their longest homestand of the season .

= = = April and season results = = =

Pittsburgh finished their homestand with a 6 ? 1 ? 1 record , moving into fourth place in the Eastern Conference . The final game of the homestand was the most watched game of the season on FSN Pittsburgh , the Penguins regional television network . FSN Pittsburgh was the most @-@ watched regional Fox network in the NHL for the second consecutive season . On April 7 , Sidney Crosby scored his 100th point of the season , Evgeni Malkin acquired his 300th career point and Petr Sykora scored his 300th career goal , while the Penguins qualified for the post @-@ season for the third consecutive season with a 6 ? 4 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning . Tickets for Pittsburgh 's first two opening round playoff games sold out within a few hours of going on sale . The team collected over \$ 100 @,@ 000 for the families of three Pittsburgh Police officers who were killed days before the game . The Penguins finished their regular season on April 12 with a win over the Montreal Canadiens . Through his first 25 games as Penguins ' coach , Dan Blysma 's 18 ? 3 ? 4 record amounted to 40 points ? the second @-@ most of any coach in NHL history through their first 25 games . The Penguins finished with a 45 ? 28 ? 9 record , for 99 points ; fourth place in the Eastern Conference and second place in the Atlantic Division .

Evgeni Malkin won the Art Ross Trophy as the league 's leading scorer with 113 points . Malkin followed Mario Lemieux , Jaromir Jagr and Crosby to become the fourth different Penguin to win the award . The award was the 13th overall for the Penguins since 1988 .

= = = Game log = = =

= = = Standings = = =

Divisional standings

Conference standings

bold ? qualified for playoffs , y ? division winner , z ? placed first in conference (and division)

AT ? Atlantic Division , NE ? Northeast Division , SE ? Southeast Division

= = = Detailed records = = =

Final

= = Stanley Cup playoffs = =

The Penguins advanced to the Stanley Cup playoffs for the third consecutive season . They earned the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference and home @-@ ice advantage in the opening round match @-@ up against the Philadelphia Flyers , following a loss by the Flyers on the last day of the regular season . For the second consecutive season , the Penguins erected a 12 by 16 foot LED screen on the lawn directly outside Mellon Arena , allowing fans to watch all playoff games , free of charge . After defeating Philadelphia , the Penguins beat the Washington Capitals and the Carolina Hurricanes to advance to the Stanley Cup Finals . The Penguins faced the Detroit Red Wings , defeating them in seven games to win their third Stanley Cup in franchise history . The final game of

the season drew a 42 @. @ 2 television rating in Pittsburgh ? the highest local rating in any city since the NHL began to track the figure .

= = = Eastern Conference Quarterfinals = = =

The Penguins won Game 1 of the series 4 ? 1 , with goals from Sidney Crosby , Evgeni Malkin , Tyler Kennedy and defenseman Mark Eaton . " It was a good [night] for me , " said Malkin , " It was a good [night] for everybody . " Flyers Head Coach John Stevens was fined US \$ 10 @, @ 000 and forward Daniel Carcillo was suspended by the NHL for the second game of the series for a hit to Maxime Talbot 's head immediately following a faceoff with seven seconds left in the game ; Carcillo was not penalized at the time of the hit . In Game 2 , Evgeni Malkin had a goal and an assist , while Marc @-@ Andre Fleury made 38 saves . Bill Guerin scored two goals , including the game winner in overtime , and the Penguins won 3 ? 2 . With the Penguins up two games to zero , the series moved to Philadelphia for Game 3 . After falling behind 2 ? 0 , goals from Malkin and Rob Scuderi tied the game . Malkin added his second goal of the game in the final period ; however , Philadelphia won the game 6 ? 3 . In Game 4 , Fleury stopped 45 shots , giving up one goal as the Penguins won 3 ? 1 . Crosby scored his second goal of the playoffs and Tyler Kennedy added the game winner . The Penguins were unable to clinch the series in Game 5 at Mellon Arena . A goal by Malkin was taken away after it was determined that he had kicked the puck into the net ; Martin Biron stopped 28 shots for the shutout . Pittsburgh viewers were unable to see approximately 30 minutes of the second period after a lightning strike at a FSN Pittsburgh network facility in Atlanta caused the station to temporarily black out .

In Game 6 , the Flyers lead 3 ? 0 four minutes into the second period . Maxime Talbot fought Daniel Carcillo after the Flyers tallied their third goal and the Penguins , re @-@ energized by Talbot 's display , scored three goals in what remained of the second period to tie the game 3 ? 3 . Sergei Gonchar scored his first goal of the series , his first in 23 playoff games dating back to game two of the Penguins ' first @-@ round series against Ottawa in 2008 , to break the tie at 2 : 19 of the third period . Crosby added an empty @-@ net goal and the Penguins eliminated the Flyers and advance to the Eastern Conference Semifinals . Three days after the Penguins series @-@ clinching victory of the Flyers , the Penguins announced that Head Coach Dan Bylsma had signed a multi @-@ year contract extension with the team .

= = = Eastern Conference semi @-@ finals = = =

The Penguins drew a matchup with the Washington Capitals in the second round semi @-@ finals . The anticipation for the series was high considering the rivalry between the teams and star players , most notably Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin of the Penguins and Alexander Ovechkin and Alexander Semin of the Capitals . The first three games in the series were scheduled for national television in the U.S. , with game one on NBC and games two and three on Versus .

Game 1 was held in Washington , where Capitals owner Ted Leonsis took steps to prevent Penguins ' fans from purchasing tickets , such as not selling tickets to customers whose 724 or 412 area code indicated they were from Western Pennsylvania . Crosby scored to give the Penguins a first period lead , but Washington scored two goals before the conclusion of the period . Mark Eaton tied the game in the second period , but Washington 's Semyon Varlamov held the Penguins scoreless for the remainder of the game as the Capitals took a 1 ? 0 lead in the series . The game had 40 % more viewers than playoff games the previous season . In Game 2 , Ovechkin and Crosby scored three goals each , though Dave Steckel 's second period goal was the difference as Washington won 4 ? 3 .

The series moved to Pittsburgh for Game 3 with the Penguins down 2 ? 0 . Goals from Ruslan Fedotenko , Nicklas Backstrom , Ovechkin and Malkin left the game tied after regulation . Kris Letang scored a powerplay goal 11 minutes into overtime , winning the game for the Penguins . Pittsburgh tied the series at two games apeace after a 5 ? 3 Game 4 victory at Mellon Arena . After a Washington goal scored less than a minute into regulation , the Penguins responded with three

goals in the first period . The Penguins ' five goals came from five different players . During the first period , Sergei Gonchar was forced to leave the game after a knee @-@ on @-@ knee hit from Ovechkin ; Gonchar returned to the Penguins ' line @-@ up for Game 7 . Game 5 took place in Washington , D.C. , the next day , due to the scheduling of a Yanni concert in Pittsburgh . After a scoreless first period , Washington took a 2 ? 1 lead in the second . Fedotenko tied the game less than a minute into the third period , but a goal by Matt Cooke was matched by Ovechkin and the game went into overtime . With one second remaining in their second powerplay of the game , Malkin scored to give the Penguins their third consecutive victory . Game 6 was the third overtime game of the series . Washington forced a seventh game with a 5 ? 4 victory . Nine different players scored goals in the game .

In the final game of the series , Pittsburgh scored two goals within eight seconds of one another to take a 2 ? 0 lead after Fleury stopped Ovechkin on a breakaway . Pittsburgh scored three more goals in the second period , extending their lead to 5 ? 0 , before Ovechkin scored his eighth goal of the series . Each team added a goal in the final period to end the game with a 6 ? 2 final score . Ovechkin scored eight goals and added six assists in the series , while Crosby tallied eight goals and five assists . Crosby 's 13 @-@ point tally in the series totalled one less than Ovechkin 's 14 points , which was the highest single @-@ series point total since the 1995 playoffs . While shaking hands following the final game , Crosby told Ovechkin he had played a " great series , " to which Ovechkin responded , " win the Stanley Cup . "

= = = Eastern Conference Final = = =

Pittsburgh faced the Carolina Hurricanes in the Eastern Conference Final , after Carolina defeated the Boston Bruins and New Jersey Devils . The series opened in Pittsburgh , where Miroslav Satan and Philippe Boucher scored their first goals of the playoffs . Marc @-@ Andre Fleury was named the game 's third star after making 23 saves and helping the Penguins to a 3 ? 2 victory . In Game 2 , Malkin scored a hat @-@ trick and Chris Kunitz scored his first goal of the playoffs as the Penguins won 7 ? 4 , taking a two games to none series lead . In Game 3 , Malkin scored two goals and Crosby scored one as the Penguins took a 3 ? 1 lead into the first intermission . After a scoreless second period , the Hurricanes came within a goal after Sergei Samsonov scored less than two minutes into the final period , but goals by Fedotenko , Craig Adams and Guerin gave the Penguins a 6 ? 2 victory . The series concluded with the Penguins sweeping , four games to none . In the series ' fourth game , Pittsburgh gave up the initial goal less than two minutes into the opening period , but goals from Fedotenko and Talbot gave them the lead after the first period . A second period goal from Guerin and an empty netter from Adams sealed the Penguins ' victory in the game and the series .

= = = Stanley Cup Final = = =

For the second consecutive season , the Penguins played the Detroit Red Wings in the Stanley Cup Finals , marking the first time in 25 years that two teams played each other in consecutive Finals . Tickets for Games 3 and 4 , which were hosted at Mellon Arena , sold out in 10 minutes . In the first game of the series , the Red Wings scored the first goal when a puck shot by Brad Stuart ricocheted off the boards behind the goal , then bounced off Marc @-@ Andre Fleury and into the net . Ruslan Fedotenko , with an assist from Evgeni Malkin , tied the game before the conclusion of the first period . Detroit went on to score a goal in each of the final two periods to win Game 1 , 3 ? 1 . Evgeni Malkin scored a powerplay goal in the first period of game two , but the Penguins were held scoreless for the remainder of the contest ; falling 3 ? 1 for a second consecutive game .

With the Penguins down two games to none , the series shifted to Pittsburgh for Game 3 . After a 2 ? 2 first period and a scoreless second period , Sergei Gonchar and Maxime Talbot each scored a goal in the third period to give the Penguins a 4 ? 2 victory . In Game 4 , the Penguins tied the Red Wings at two games apiece with three unanswered goals in the second period , including a shorthanded goal by Jordan Staal . With the series returning to Detroit , the Red Wings took a three

games to two lead in the series with a 5 ? 0 win . Staal and Tyler Kennedy scored as the Penguins tied the series at three games apiece in a 2 ? 1 game six victory . In the seventh and final game of the series , Maxime Talbot scored two goals and Fleury made 23 saves as the Penguins won their third Stanley Cup in franchise history .

Evgeni Malkin won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the MVP of the playoffs . Fans celebrated in the streets of Pittsburgh after the game , with the Stanley Cup victory coming four months after the Pittsburgh Steelers ' victory in Super Bowl XLIII . Two days after the victory , 375 @, @ 000 people attended a parade of the Cup through downtown Pittsburgh .

= = = Playoff log = = =

Scorer of game @-@ winning goal in italics

= = Player statistics = =

Skaters

Goaltenders

? Denotes player spent time with another team before joining Team . Stats reflect time with the Team only . ? Denotes player was traded mid @-@ season . Stats reflect time with the Team only .

Bold / italics denotes franchise record

= = Awards and records = =

= = = Records = = =

= = = Milestones = = =

= = = Awards = = =

Prior to the team 's final home game on April 9 against the New York Islanders , the team announced its annual award winners . Awards were given by the Pittsburgh chapter of the Professional Hockey Writers Association , the Penguins Booster Club , as well as voted amongst the team .

= = Roster = =

= = Transactions = =

Concerns over future player contracts were raised just days after the 2008 Stanley Cup Finals . Approximately a dozen players , including Marian Hossa , Jarkko Ruutu , Ryan Malone and Brooks Orpik , had fulfilled the final year on their contracts . On June 28 , the Penguins traded the contract negotiation rights to Gary Roberts and Ryan Malone to the Tampa Bay Lightning for a conditional draft pick ; it became a third @-@ round pick when both Malone and Roberts signed with the Lightning on June 30 . Evgeni Malkin was offered a contract from a Russian team in the newly formed Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) worth approximately \$ 12 @. @ 5 million , tax exempt , per year , which would make him the highest @-@ paid hockey player in the world . However , Malkin turned down the offer to remain with the Penguins , and the IIHF released a statement saying that it would not honor the offer , as Malkin was already under an existing contract with the Penguins at the time . Malkin agreed to a five @-@ year contract extension worth \$ 8 @. @ 7 million per year

? the same value as Sidney Crosby 's contract ? with the Penguins on July 2 . On July 3 , the Penguins agreed to a seven @-@ year deal with restricted free agent goaltender Marc @-@ Andre Fleury in addition to one @-@ year contracts with free agents Miroslav Satan and Ruslan Fedotenko . On October 8 , the Penguins made several roster adjustments , placing Kris Beech , who was already in Europe looking for a new team , on unconditional waivers and sending Janne Pesonen , John Curry and Jeff Taffe , who first had to clear waivers , to Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton . The next day , on October 9 , the Penguins acquired Michael Zigomanis from Phoenix for future considerations . On December 19 , the team extended their agreement with Maxime Talbot for an additional two seasons .

Trades

? Initially fifth @-@ round pick , fourth @-@ round pick if Penguins make playoffs , third @-@ round pick if Penguins win a playoff round and Guerin plays in 50 % of the games .

= = Draft picks = =

The 2008 NHL Entry Draft was held on June 20 ? 21 , 2008 , in Ottawa , Ontario . The Penguins did not make their first selection until the fourth round , at 120th overall .

Draft notes

The Pittsburgh Penguins ' first @-@ round pick went to the Atlanta Thrashers as the result of a February 26 , 2008 trade that sent Marian Hossa and Pascal Dupuis to the Penguins in exchange for Angelo Esposito , Colby Armstrong , Erik Christensen and this pick .

The Pittsburgh Penguins ' second @-@ round pick went to the Toronto Maple Leafs as the result of a February 26 , 2008 trade that sent Hal Gill to the Penguins in exchange for a 2009 fifth @-@ round pick and this pick .

The Pittsburgh Penguins ' third @-@ round pick went to the Phoenix Coyotes as the result of a February 27 , 200 trade that sent Georges Laraque to the Penguins in exchange for Daniel Carcillo and this pick .

= = Farm teams = =

Pittsburgh 's American Hockey League affiliate , the Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton Penguins , finished the 2008 ? 09 season third in the East Division .

Chris Minard , the AHL 's leading goal scorer at time of announcement , was selected as a starter for Team Canada in the 2009 All Star Classic . Jeff Taffe and Ben Lovejoy were selected as reserves for the PlanetUSA team . All three players were under two @-@ way NHL contracts and played games with Pittsburgh during the season . In the game , Taffe scored three goals and recorded two assists .

Janne Pesonen , who signed a contract with the Penguins in July 2008 , finished the 2008 ? 09 season as the AHL 's fourth @-@ leading scorer , set a new record for points in a single season for the team , passing up Toby Peterson 's 67 @-@ point season of 2000 ? 01 , and his 82 points were the most ever by a Finn in AHL history .

The ECHL affiliate Wheeling Nailers finished the season fourth in the Northern Division , and were eliminated in the first round of the 2009 Kelly Cup Playoffs .

The Nailers had three players selected for the 2009 ECHL All @-@ Star Game , all reserve forwards . Nick Johnson , the only Penguins prospect , was drafted by the team 67th overall in 2004 and signed an entry @-@ level contract with the organization in March 2008 . Johnson did not play in the All @-@ Star Game because he finished the season with Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton .

= = Media affiliates = =

WXDX @-@ FM 105 @.@ 9 of Pittsburgh was the radio flagship station for the Penguins for the third season . In April , the team and the station agreed to a six @-@ year contract extension . Mike Lange , former Penguin Phil Bourque and Bob Grove were the station 's broadcasters .

FSN Pittsburgh was the primary television network . Paul Steigerwald , Dan Potash , Rob King , and former Penguins Bob Errey and Jay Caufield were the station 's broadcast team . During the semi @-@ final playoff round against the Washington Capitals , game five set a record as the highest watched game on any FSN regional network in history . It was then surpassed by games six and seven ; the final game of the series drew a 24 @.@ 97 average rating ? twice the viewers than the second most watched show of the evening .