

= New Jersey Devils =

The New Jersey Devils are a professional ice hockey team based in Newark , New Jersey , that competes in the National Hockey League ( NHL ) . The team is a member of the league 's Metropolitan Division of the Eastern Conference . The club was founded as the Kansas City Scouts in Kansas City , Missouri , in 1974 . The Scouts moved to Denver , Colorado in 1976 and became the Colorado Rockies . In 1982 , they moved to East Rutherford , New Jersey and took their current name . For their first 25 seasons in New Jersey , the Devils were based at the Meadowlands Sports Complex in East Rutherford and played their home games at Brendan Byrne Arena ( later renamed to Continental Airlines Arena ) . Beginning with the 2007 ? 08 season , the Devils relocated to Newark and now play their home games at the Prudential Center .

The franchise was poor to mediocre in the eight years before moving to New Jersey , a pattern that continued during the first five years in New Jersey as they failed to make the Stanley Cup playoffs and never finished higher than fifth in their division . Their fortunes began to turn around following the hiring of president and general manager Lou Lamoriello in 1987 . Under Lamoriello 's stewardship , the Devils made the playoffs all but three times between 1988 and 2012 , including 13 berths in a row from 1997 to 2010 , and finished with a winning record every season from 1992 ? 93 to 2009 ? 10 . They have won the Atlantic Division regular season title nine times , most recently in 2009 ? 10 , before transferring to the newly created Metropolitan Division as part of the NHL 's realignment in 2013 . The Devils have reached the Stanley Cup Finals five times , winning in 1994 ? 95 , 1999 ? 00 and 2002 ? 03 . The Devils were known for their defense @-@ first approach throughout their years of Cup contention , but have since moved towards a more offensive style .

The Devils have a rivalry with their cross @-@ Hudson River neighbor , the New York Rangers , as well as a rivalry with the Philadelphia Flyers . The Devils are one of three NHL teams in the New York metropolitan area ; the other two teams are the New York Islanders and New York Rangers . The franchise is the only major league team in any sport that explicitly identifies itself as a New Jersey team .

= = History = =

= = = Kansas City and Colorado = = =

In 1972 , the NHL announced plans to add two expansion teams , including one in Kansas City , Missouri . Edwin G. Thompson led the group that purchased ownership of the team , which was nicknamed the Scouts in reference to " a statue in a Kansas City park that was represented in their final logo . " In the team 's inaugural season , 1974 ? 75 , the Scouts were forced to wait until the ninth game to play in Kansas City 's Kemper Arena , and did not post a win until beating the Washington Capitals , their expansion brethren , in their tenth contest . With 41 points in their inaugural season , the Scouts finished last in the Smythe Division ; only the Capitals had fewer points in the NHL . Kansas City fell to 36 points the following season , and had a 27 @-@ game losing streak . The Scouts had difficulty drawing fans to home games , and National Hockey League Players ' Association ( NHLPA ) leader Alan Eagleson publicly expressed concerns about whether Scouts players would be paid .

After two seasons in Kansas City , the franchise moved to Denver and was renamed the Colorado Rockies it played at the McNichols Sports Arena . The team won its first game as the Rockies , 4 ? 2 , against the Toronto Maple Leafs . The Rockies were in position to qualify for the playoffs 60 games into the 1976 ? 77 season , but a streak of 18 games without a win caused them to fall from contention . The Rockies ended the campaign last in the division with a 20 ? 46 ? 14 record and 54 points , and improved to 59 points the next season . Despite having the sixth @-@ worst record in the League , the Rockies beat @-@ out the Vancouver Canucks for second in the Division by two points and gained a playoff berth . The Philadelphia Flyers eliminated the Rockies from the playoffs in the preliminary rounds .

A lack of stability continually plagued the team . The franchise never won more than 22 games and did not return to the playoffs after 1977 ? 78 in its six seasons in Colorado . Prior to the 1978 ? 79 season , the team was sold to New Jersey trucking tycoon Arthur Imperatore , who intended to move the team to his home state . The plan was criticized due to the existence of three other NHL teams in the region , and the proposed New Jersey arena was still under construction ; the franchise ultimately stayed in Denver . In 1979 , the team hired Don Cherry as head coach and featured forward Lanny McDonald . The Rockies still posted the worst record in the NHL , and Cherry was subsequently fired after the season . After two more years in Denver , the Rockies were sold to a group headed by John McMullen ( who also owned Major League Baseball 's Houston Astros ) on May 27 , 1982 , and the franchise moved to New Jersey . As part of the relocation deal , the Devils had to compensate the three existing teams in the region ? the New York Islanders , New York Rangers and Flyers ? for encroaching on their territory .

= = = New Jersey = = =

= = = = 1982 ? 1993 : Building the foundation = = = =

On June 30 , 1982 , the team was renamed the New Jersey Devils , after the legend of the Jersey Devil , a creature that allegedly inhabited the Pine Barrens of South Jersey . Over 10 @, @ 000 people voted in a contest held to select the name . The team began play in East Rutherford , New Jersey at the Brendan Byrne Arena , later renamed the Continental Airlines Arena and then the Izod Center , where they called home through the 2006 ? 07 season . The Devils were initially placed in the Patrick Division . Their first game ended in a 3 ? 3 tie against the Pittsburgh Penguins , with their first goal scored by Don Lever . Their first win , a 3 ? 2 victory , came in New Jersey at the expense of the Rangers . The team finished with a 17 ? 49 ? 14 record , putting them three points above last place in the Patrick Division .

In the following season , the Devils were criticized by Wayne Gretzky after a 13 ? 4 loss to the Edmonton Oilers . In a post @-@ game interview , Gretzky said that the Devils were " putting a Mickey Mouse operation on the ice . " Later , Gretzky said that his comment was " blown out of proportion . " In response , many Devils fans wore Mickey Mouse apparel when the Oilers returned to New Jersey . Also in the 1983 ? 84 season , the Devils hosted the annual NHL All @-@ Star Game . New Jersey 's Chico Resch was the winning goaltender , and Devils defenseman Joe Cirella tallied a goal as the Wales Conference beat the Campbell Conference 7 ? 6 . Overall , the team did not achieve much success . Head Coach Bill MacMillan was fired 20 games into the season , whereupon Tom McVie was named the new coach . The Devils won only 17 games and after the season , Doug Carpenter succeeded McVie .

The Devils assembled a core of players that included John MacLean , Bruce Driver , Ken Daneyko , Kirk Muller and Pat Verbeek , with Resch as their goaltender . Their record improved each season between 1983 ? 84 and 1986 ? 87 . However , they were unable to reach the playoffs . Despite their improvement , the Devils remained last in the Patrick Division in 1985 ? 86 and 1986 ? 87 . McMullen hired Providence College athletic director Lou Lamoriello as team president in April 1987 . To gain greater control over franchise operations , Lamoriello appointed himself general manager before the 1987 ? 88 season .

The 1987 ? 88 Devils garnered the franchise 's first winning record . On the final day of the regular season , they were tied with their rivals , the Rangers , for the final playoff spot in the Patrick Division . After New York defeated the Quebec Nordiques 3 ? 0 , the Devils needed to defeat the Chicago Blackhawks for a post @-@ season berth . The Devils were trailing 3 ? 2 midway through the third period when John MacLean tied the game , and with 2 : 39 left in overtime , he added the winning goal . Although the Rangers and Devils both finished with 82 points , the Devils had two more wins , sending them to the playoffs for the first time in franchise history as the New Jersey Devils . The team made it all the way to the Wales Conference Finals in the 1988 Stanley Cup playoffs , but lost to the Boston Bruins in seven games . In that series , Head Coach Jim Schoenfeld

verbally abused referee Don Koharski after the third game , screaming at him . During the exchange , Koharski fell and Schoenfeld said to him " Have another doughnut , you fat pig ! " Schoenfeld was given a suspension by the NHL , but due to a favorable court order , he was able to coach in the fourth game of the series . In protest , referee Dave Newell and linesmen Gord Broseker and Ray Scapinello refused to work the game . Three off @-@ ice officials ? Paul McInnis , Jim Sullivan and Vin Godleski ? were tracked down to work the game .

The next season , the Devils once again slipped below .500 and missed the playoffs . Among the post @-@ season player changes Lamoriello made in the off @-@ season was the signing of two Soviet stars ? Viacheslav Fetisov and Sergei Starikov . The Devils drafted Fetisov years earlier in the 1983 Entry Draft , but the Soviet Government did not allow Fetisov , who was a member of the national team , to leave the country . Shortly after , the Devils signed Fetisov 's defense partner , Alexei Kasatonov .

The team changed coaches midway through each of the next two seasons . Schoenfeld was replaced with John Cuniff in 1989 ? 90 , and Tom McVie was hired midway through the 1990 ? 91 season and helmed the team through its third @-@ straight first @-@ round elimination in 1991 ? 92 . Herb Brooks , who coached the 1980 U.S. Olympic " Miracle on Ice " team , was brought in for the 1992 ? 93 season , but when the team yet again was eliminated in the first round , he was fired and replaced by former Montreal Canadiens Head Coach Jacques Lemaire .

=== 1993 ? 2000 : Championship franchise ===

Under Lemaire , the team played during the 1993 ? 94 regular season with a lineup that included defensemen Scott Stevens , Scott Niedermayer and Ken Daneyko ; forwards Stephane Richer , John MacLean , Bobby Holik and Claude Lemieux ; and goaltenders Chris Terreri and Martin Brodeur , the latter goaltender was honored as the NHL 's top rookie with the Calder Memorial Trophy . The Devils scored 330 times in the regular season and set a franchise record with 106 points , second behind the New York Rangers in the Atlantic Division . The Devils and Rangers met in an Eastern Conference Finals match @-@ up , which went seven games . Going into Game 6 in New Jersey , the Devils led the series three games to two . Before the game , Rangers captain Mark Messier guaranteed that the Rangers would win Game 6 . Messier led his team back , netting a hat @-@ trick to help the Rangers overcome an early 2 ? 0 Devils lead and force a decisive content . In Game 7 , the Devils ' Valeri Zelepukin tied the score at 1 ? 1 with 7 @. @ 7 seconds remaining , but the Devils were defeated in double overtime on a goal by Stéphane Matteau .

Despite the setback , the team returned to the Eastern Conference Finals during the lockout @-@ shortened 1994 ? 95 season and defeated the Philadelphia Flyers four games to two . They swept the heavily favored Detroit Red Wings to win New Jersey 's first @-@ ever Stanley Cup , as they brought the Cup across the Hudson River from New York , after the Rangers had won it the year before . The 1995 Devils team became the first to give the players a day with the Stanley Cup , a tradition that lives on with each Cup winner . Claude Lemieux was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoffs MVP . The success came amid constant rumors that the team would move for the third time in its history to Nashville . Staring at the prospect of losing the team , the state agreed to fund a renovation of the Devils ' arena .

The Devils missed the playoffs by two points the following season , with a 37 ? 33 ? 12 record . They were beaten by the Tampa Bay Lightning for the last playoff spot in the East on the last day of the season , after a 5 ? 2 loss to the Ottawa Senators in a must @-@ win game . It marked the first time in 26 years that a defending Cup champion failed to reach the playoffs . For the remainder of the decade , the Devils won at least 45 games every season , but were unable to make a deep playoff run . Despite posting 104 points in the 1996 ? 97 season and 107 in 1997 ? 98 , they were ousted by the Rangers four games to one in the second round of the 1997 playoffs and in the first round by the Senators four games to two a year later . Lemaire resigned after that season and was replaced by assistant Robbie Ftorek . However , the next season ended as the previous one , with a first @-@ round loss , this time to the Pittsburgh Penguins .

Late in the 1999 ? 2000 season , Lamoriello made the decision to fire Ftorek and replace him with

Assistant Coach Larry Robinson , which the New York Post 's Mark Everson described as " pure panic " at the prospect of another early @-@ round playoff elimination . The Devils were in position to reach the playoffs , but Lamoriello reacted to a stretch of 17 games in which the team went 5 ? 10 ? 2 . New Jersey followed the move by defeating the Florida Panthers , the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Philadelphia Flyers during the post @-@ season to make the Finals . In the Finals , the Devils reached the top again , defeating the defending champion Dallas Stars in six games to win the Stanley Cup for the second time . Veterans such as Stevens , Holik , Niedermayer and Brodeur were joined by new players acquired in the intervening five years , including Patrik Elias , Petr Sykora , Jason Arnott , Alexander Mogilny and Calder Trophy recipient Scott Gomez . The Devils ' second championship run included a come @-@ from @-@ behind victory in the Conference Finals . They trailed the Flyers three games to one , but rebounded to win three @-@ straight games and the series . This was the first time in NHL Conference Finals history that a 3 ? 1 series deficit was surmounted . This series featured a hit that captain Scott Stevens laid on Flyers center Eric Lindros in the seventh game , which effectively ended Lindros ' career in Philadelphia . Stevens was named the winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy , as the Devils clinched the Stanley Cup on Arnott 's goal in double @-@ overtime of Game 6 in Dallas .

In 2000 , McMullen sold the team to Puck Holdings , an affiliate of YankeeNets , for \$ 176 million . The owners wanted to program Devils games on what eventually became the YES Network and move the team to a new arena in Newark . Neither of these proposals became reality under Puck Holdings ' ownership . For the start of the next season , Lamoriello was appointed CEO of both the Devils and the New Jersey Nets National Basketball Association team . He remained at the helm of the basketball team until it was sold with the intention of moving it to Brooklyn in 2004 .

== == 2001 ? 2007 : Third Cup and lockout == ==

Led by the Elias @-@ Arnott @-@ Sykora line ( The A Line ) on offense and the goaltending of Brodeur ( who appeared in a record 97 games between the regular season and playoffs ) , the Devils reached the Stanley Cup Finals for the second @-@ straight year in 2001 . They lost the series to the Colorado Avalanche despite leading 3 ? 2 . John Madden became the first player in franchise history to win the Frank J. Selke Trophy for top defensive forward . In the 2001 ? 02 season , they were expected to be contenders once again , and they finished the season as the third @-@ best team in the Atlantic Division , with 95 points . The Devils entered the playoffs as a sixth seed , but lost in the first round to the third @-@ seeded Carolina Hurricanes .

In 2003 , the Devils finished first in the Atlantic Division with 108 points . Their playoff run included a seven @-@ game Conference Final series victory , decided in the final three minutes on a goal by forward Jeff Friesen , over the Ottawa Senators . In the Stanley Cup Finals , the Devils and Mighty Ducks of Anaheim had a back @-@ and @-@ forth battle , as both teams won all of their home games . The Devils brought the Stanley Cup to New Jersey for a third time , defeating the Mighty Ducks in the seventh game of the Finals in New Jersey . After the series , Daneyko , a long @-@ time fan favorite , announced his retirement . Brodeur was awarded the Vezina Trophy as outstanding goaltender in the regular season for the first time in his career , having won 41 games in the regular season to top the NHL .

In the 2003 ? 04 season , Brodeur took home the Vezina Trophy again . Despite losing team captain Scott Stevens in the 38th game of the season to a concussion , the Devils finished second in the Atlantic Division with 100 points . With the sixth seed in the Stanley Cup playoffs , the Devils lost to the Philadelphia Flyers four games to one . In March 2004 , near the end of the season , Lehman Brothers executive Jeff Vanderbeek purchased a controlling interest from Puck Holdings and resigned from Lehman Brothers to assume full @-@ time ownership . He had been a minority owner since the 2000 sale . Like Puck Holdings / YankeeNets , Vanderbeek largely left the Devils in Lamoriello 's hands .

Vanderbeek was a strong proponent of the proposed arena in Newark , which first received funding from the city council during Puck Holdings ' ownership in 2002 . After legal battles over both eminent domain and the city 's financial participation in the arena project , the final deal was approved by

council in October 2004 , during the early months of the lockout , and the groundbreaking occurred almost exactly a year later . Nonetheless , in January 2006 , financial issues threatened to halt the deal , as the Devils did not provide the city with a required letter of credit until the last possible day .

Though construction was well underway , in late summer 2006 , new Mayor of Newark Cory Booker promised to reevaluate the deal and considered backing out . In October , Booker conceded there would be " a first @-@ class arena built in the city of Newark , whether we like it or not , " and soon after the Devils struck a deal including both property and monetary givebacks that appeased city officials . The arena , which was named the Prudential Center when Newark @-@ based Prudential Financial purchased naming rights in early 2007 , opened shortly after the start of the 2007 ? 08 season .

The 2004 ? 05 season was canceled due to the lockout ; many Devils players played in European leagues and in the hockey world championships . Patrik Elias , who was playing in the Russian Superleague , contracted hepatitis A. Faced with Elias ' indefinite recovery timetable , plus the loss of defensive stalwarts Scott Niedermayer to free agency and Scott Stevens to retirement , Lamoriello signed veteran defenseman Dan McGillis and two former Devils , winger Alexander Mogilny and defenseman Vladimir Malakhov , none of whom finished the season on the ice . In July 2005 , the team announced that Head Coach Pat Burns would not return for the 2005 ? 06 season after being diagnosed with cancer for the second time in little more than a year . Assistant Coach Larry Robinson , the team 's head coach from 2000 to 2002 , was promoted to start the season .

The Devils struggled early in the 2005 ? 06 season , ending the 2005 calendar year with a 16 ? 18 ? 5 record . Robinson resigned as head coach on December 19 , and Lamoriello moved down to the bench . Once Elias returned from his bout with hepatitis , the team quickly turned around , finishing 46 ? 27 ? 9 after a season @-@ ending 11 @-@ game winning streak capped with a 4 ? 3 win over the Montreal Canadiens . During that final victory , which clinched the Devils ' sixth division title , Brian Gionta set a new team record for goals in a season with 48 , topping Pat Verbeek 's 46 . The win streak to close the year was also an NHL record . The Devils won their first round Stanley Cup playoff series against the Rangers four games to none , but were eliminated by the Carolina Hurricanes in the next round .

In the off @-@ season , the Devils hired former Montreal Canadiens head coach Claude Julien to replace Lamoriello behind the bench . However , in the last week of the 2006 ? 07 Devils season , with just three games left , Julien was fired , and Lamoriello once again reprised his coaching role . The Devils went on to win their seventh Atlantic Division title and earn the second seed in the Eastern Conference after finishing ahead of the Pittsburgh Penguins by two points . They then defeated the Tampa Bay Lightning in six games in the first round , but fell to the Ottawa Senators in the Eastern Conference Semi @-@ finals in five . The conclusion of the series marked the end of the Devils ' time at the Continental Airlines Arena .

= = = = 2007 ? 2013 : Move to Newark and return to Finals = = = =

Before the move to Newark , the Devils hired their 14th coach in a 26 @-@ season span , Brent Sutter . As the Devils ' pre @-@ season came to an end , prospects Nicklas Bergfors and David Clarkson made the final roster . The Devils opened their new arena , the Prudential Center , on October 27 , 2007 , against Ottawa after opening the season with a nine @-@ game road trip . The game ended with a 4 ? 1 win for Ottawa . In the last game of the 2007 ? 08 season against the Rangers , the Devils won in a shootout , giving them home ice advantage over the Rangers in the playoffs . The Devils lost the series against the Rangers 4 ? 1 , losing all three games at home . Brodeur won the Vezina Trophy for the fourth time in five years for his performance in the regular season .

For the 2008 ? 09 season , the Devils signed Brian Rolston and Bobby Holik , both making their second stints with the team . The Devils were forced to play without Brodeur for over three months after he tore a biceps tendon in November , but strong play by backup goalie Scott Clemmensen kept the Devils atop the Atlantic Division . After his return , Brodeur broke Patrick Roy 's record for regular season wins on March 17 , 2009 , with his 552nd victory , while Patrik Elias became the

franchise 's all @-@ time leading scorer with his 702nd point . The season also served as a break @-@ out year for 24 @-@ year old Zach Parise , who led the team with an impressive 45 goals and 94 points . In the opening round of the 2009 playoffs , the Devils were eliminated in a Game 7 loss in which the Hurricanes scored two goals in the last minute and twenty seconds to erase a 3 ? 2 Devils lead .

In the off @-@ season , the Devils announced that Sutter was stepping down from his position , citing personal and family reasons ; he became the coach of the Calgary Flames shortly afterward . Jacques Lemaire returned to the head coach position . During the 2009 ? 10 season , the Devils made a trade to acquire star left wing Ilya Kovalchuk from the Atlanta Thrashers . The Devils had their 12th 100 @-@ point season in their last 15 attempts . They finished the season in first place in the Atlantic Division , second in the Eastern Conference , and played in the post @-@ season for the 13th @-@ straight time . Their seeding matched them up against Philadelphia in the first round , and they were eliminated four games to one .

After Lemaire retired from coaching , the Devils announced that the team 's all @-@ time leading scorer , John MacLean , would become their new head coach . During the off @-@ season , the Devils signed Kovalchuk to a 15 @-@ year , \$ 100 million contract , keeping him in New Jersey until the conclusion of the 2024 ? 25 season ; the move came after the NHL had rejected a 17 @-@ year contract for allegedly circumventing the NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement ( CBA ) . The League still penalized the Devils for trying to circumvent the NHL salary cap with a money fine , a third @-@ round draft pick in 2011 and one future first @-@ round pick within the next four seasons . MacLean led the team to a record of 9 ? 22 ? 2 , and after sitting in last place in the NHL on December 23 , he was removed in favor of Lemaire , coming out of retirement for his third stint as head coach of the Devils and second in less than two seasons . Just a few days later , struggling captain Jamie Langenbrunner was traded back to Dallas after nine seasons with New Jersey . With the injured Parise missing most of the regular season , the team struggled offensively , finishing last in goals scored . Despite this , the Devils managed a mid @-@ season turnaround , winning 22 out of the next 25 games . However , the Devils still failed to qualify for the playoffs for the first time since 1996 , ending their 13 @-@ year streak .

In the 2011 off @-@ season , Lemaire once again retired and was replaced by former Florida Panthers head coach Peter DeBoer . DeBoer 's new system helped develop a strong offense , which had seven 40 @-@ point scorers by the season 's end and broke an NHL record for the best regular season penalty kill since before the Expansion Era . Four players ? Kovalchuk , Elias , David Clarkson and newly named captain Zach Parise ? scored 30 or more goals , with Kovalchuk and Elias also finishing the season among the NHL 's top ten @-@ point scorers . Rookie forward Adam Henrique totaled 51 points and earned a Calder Trophy nomination for rookie of the year . As the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference , the Devils defeated Southeast champions Florida before overcoming both divisional rivals , the Flyers and Rangers , to win the Conference and return to the Finals after nine years . Facing the Los Angeles Kings in the Finals , the Devils managed to not be swept after losing the first three games in the series , but still lost the Cup in six games .

During the 2012 off @-@ season , Zach Parise signed a 13 @-@ year , \$ 98 million contract with the Minnesota Wild , leaving the Devils after one season as team captain . The Devils entered the lockout @-@ shortened season with Bryce Salvador as their new captain . However , the Devils failed to repeat the performance of the prior year , finishing 19 ? 19 ? 10 in 48 games and missed the playoffs .

== == 2013 ? present : Harris ? Blitzer era == ==

The Devils ' longtime financial struggles worsened during the 2012 ? 13 season , and at one point the team needed to borrow \$ 30 million to meet their payroll . This prompted owner Jeff Vanderbeek to sell the team . Andrew Barroway , the attorney who loaned the team the \$ 30 million , was one potential buyer . Ultimately , the team was sold to Josh Harris , owner of the NBA 's Philadelphia 76ers , and David S. Blitzer , for over \$ 320 million . The sale was formally announced on August 15 , 2013 . During the offseason , Kovalchuk announced he would retire from the NHL , expressing a

desire to return home to Russia along with his family . In addition , 30 @-@ goal scorer David Clarkson also left the Devils , signing a 7 @-@ year deal with Toronto . With the departures of Parise and now Kovalchuk and Clarkson , the Devils were in desperate need of offensive help . In an effort to fill the void , the Devils signed veteran Jaromir Jagr , who despite being 41 years old , led the team scoring in the 2013 ? 14 season . During the 2013 NHL Entry Draft , hosted in Newark , the Devils acquired goaltender Cory Schneider from Vancouver in exchange for the Devils ' first round draft pick . Schneider split goaltending duties with the 41 @-@ year @-@ old Brodeur , which led to some controversy over who should be the starting goalie for the Devils . Despite Schneider 's 1 @-@ 97 goals against average leading the NHL , the Devils missed the playoffs by five points due to lagging offensive production . In the 2014 offseason , the Devils saw the departure of NHL all @-@ time wins leader Martin Brodeur , who was not re @-@ signed and subsequently joined the St. Louis Blues . Brodeur , who had spent his entire 21 @-@ year career with the Devils , played only seven games with St. Louis before announcing his retirement .

The 2014 ? 15 season opened with the Devils ' roster suffering with injuries , and consequently the team accumulated losses . On December 26 , Peter DeBoer was fired from the head coach position . To replace him , Lamoriello invested in two head coaches , former Devils player Scott Stevens ( who had been DeBoer 's assistant for two years ) and Adam Oates , with Lamoriello himself supervising the team during the first months . The Devils finished the season as the sixth @-@ worst team in the League , 20 points away from a playoff spot and with just one victory in the last 11 games .

During the 2015 offseason , Ray Shero was named the Devils ' new general manager , and John Hynes was named as the new head coach . Lou Lamoriello resigned as team president and became the general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs , replacing Dave Nonis , who was fired at the end of the season .

= = Season @-@ by @-@ season record = =

This is a partial list of the last five seasons completed by the Devils . For the full season @-@ by @-@ season history , see List of New Jersey Devils seasons