






THREE IN THREE

Teams that have advanced to three consecutive Stanley Cup finals since the league expanded in 1967-68:

Team	Years	Finals	Cups	The skinny
 St. Louis Blues	1968-70	3	0	If ever an achievement of this sort needs an asterisk, this is it. The Blues take advantage of a playoff format designed to ensure that an expansion team reaches the final round. They are summarily swept in all three series — twice by Montreal and once by Boston.
 Philadelphia Flyers	1974-76	3	2	Penguins GM Ray Shero knows well the group that came to be known as “The Broad Street Bullies.” His father, Fred, coaches a team featuring center Bobby Clarke, goalie Bernie Parent and tough guy Dave Schultz (1,1127 PIM in those three seasons).
 Montreal Canadiens	1976-79	4	4	The dynasty within the dynasty. The four Cups cap a 15-year span in which the sport’s most storied franchise wins 10 times. So dominant are the Canadiens of Guy Lafleur, Ken Dryden and Yvan Cournoyer, they lose only eight times in the 1976-77 season.
 New York Islanders	1980-84	5	4	All-Stars and Hall of Famers are everywhere on this team, from coach Al Arbour to the No. 1 line of Mike Bossy, Bryan Trottier and Clark Gillies to goalie Billy Smith. It sets the NHL record for consecutive victories (15) in 1981-82, a record the Penguins would break a decade later.
 Edmonton Oilers	1983-85	3	2	This represents only the beginning of the Oilers dynasty. With Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Paul Coffey and Grant Fuhr, the Oilers would go on to win five Cups and set numerous scoring records, including most goals in a season (446 in 1984), before the end of the decade.