

We've all heard of the phrase "the numbers don't lie", but there is always room for statistical anomalies that make each and every one of us scratch our heads. This week we'll take a look at a few statistical anomalies that have occurred so far this season and whether the numbers will re-align or are they set for the long run.

Eric Nystrom

Nystrom's currently tickling the twine at a rate of 22.6 percent, but his previous career shooting percentage prior to this season was just 7.7 percent, so expect a bit of a dip moving forward.

Expecting the Unexpected (West 2011) Written by Ryan Ma Tuesday, 27 December 2011 12:20 - Last Updated Wednesday, 28 December 2011 06:08 Jonathan Toews

Toews is currently on pace to finish the season with 45 goals, but his NHL career-high has only been 34. He also has an average of 1.89 goals per 60 mins played, which ranks third amongst all players. Toews' never been a big goal scorer throughout his career, (48 goals in 64 contests

in High School, 40 in 76 during college and nine in 31 representing Canada at various events), so expecting 45+ is probably a bit much. Look for him to establish a new career-high, but not a

lot more.

Henrik Sedin

Sedin's leading the league in assists for a third consecutive season. He's posted 83 and 75 during the last two seasons, and is currently on pace to hit that mark once again. The chemistry between him and his brother is uncanny, which should see him experience similar success moving forward.

Teemu Selanne

Written by Ryan Ma Tuesday, 27 December 2011 12:20 - Last Updated Wednesday, 28 December 2011 06:08

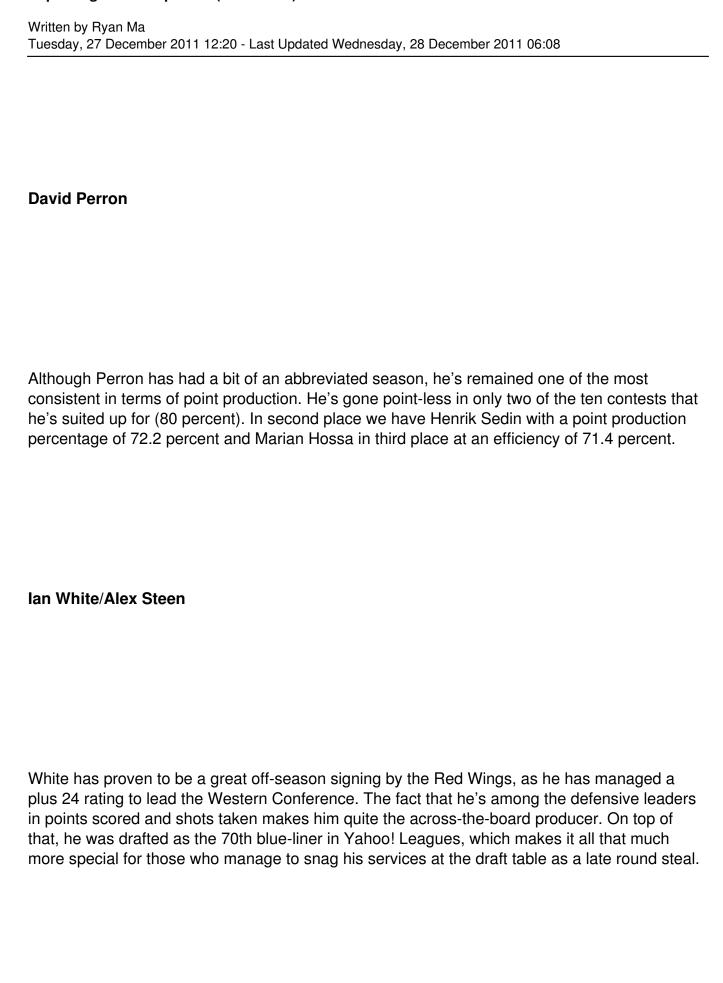
The 40-year old Finnish Flash has a 1.11 point-per-game average on the road compared to just 0.88 at the Honda Center. Between February 10th and 27th the Ducks play nine out of 10 games away from Anaheim, so now might be a great time to make a pitch to the Selanne owner for his services.

Derek Dorsett

Dorsett is currently averaging a fight every three and a half contests. He's also on pace to chip in with 20+ points and 110+ SOG, which makes him a pretty valuable fantasy asset for poolies who are looking to beef up the PIMs column.

Brendan Morrow

If consistency is what you're after, then Morrow is probably a "safer" PIMs option. He leads the league in minor penalties (22), which makes it easier to predict/control, rather than going after the big fish with goons or agitators. The fact that he'll also contribute on the multiple fronts helps with the across-the-board production.



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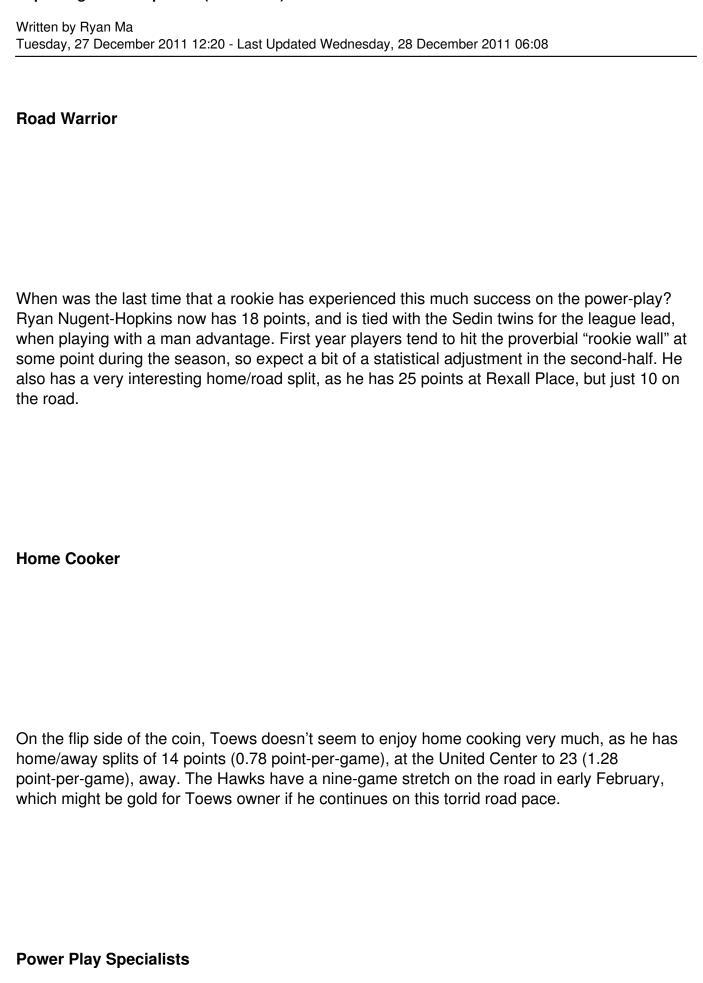
Steen has never reached double digits in terms of plus/minus and is currently on pace for an end-of-year plus 49 rating. That probably isn't going to happen, but a league-leading plus 35 probably won't be that far-fetched.

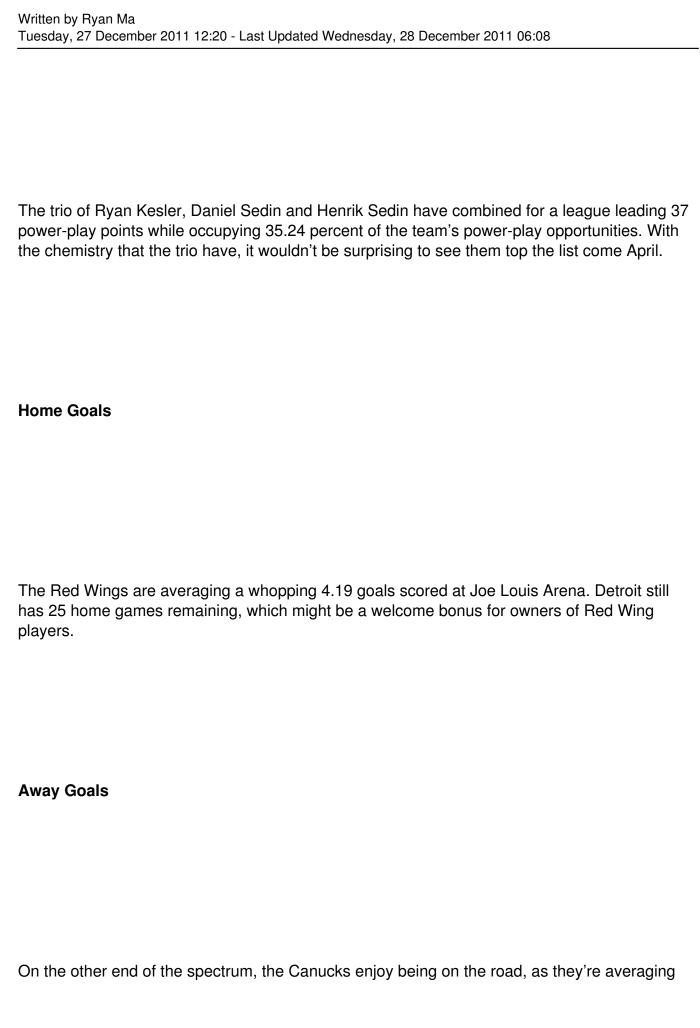
Patrick Sharp

With four players over the 110 SOG mark, it's certainly surprising to see how the Hawks manage to fire that many shots against their opposition. Sharpie leads the way with 133 and is on pace to finish the campaign above the 300 SOG plateau. I doubted him last campaign, I won't make that same mistake twice.

Sheldon Souray

It's certainly a big surprise this season as Souray is on pace to finish the season with 262 SOG. He's always been a big shooter while dropping plenty of bombs from the blue-line. 2011-12 has been a great bounce-back season from the cagy veteran.





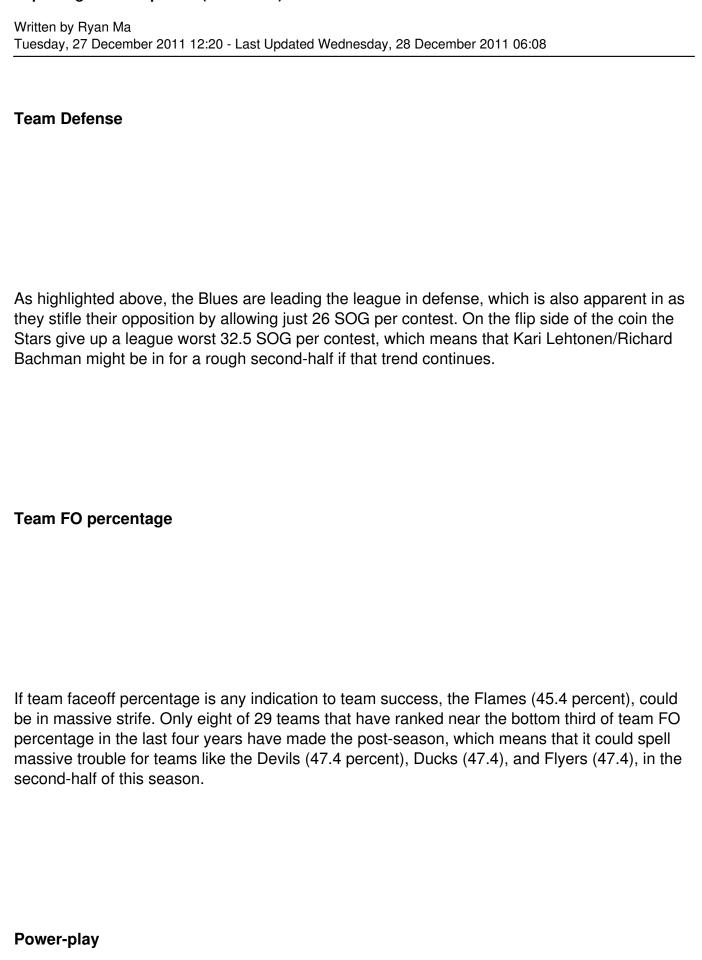
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3.16 goals away from Vancouver. With 22 of the remaining 47 contests on the road, it might be a good time to acquire some Nucks for the second-half.
Stingy D
The Blues give up just 1.89 goals on average to the opposition on home turf (1.79 under Ken Hitchcock). Just to bring things into perspective, the Stanley Cup winning Bruins finished last season with a 2.17 average. Could be Blues be on their way to the Cup, playing with an iron curtain D?
On the flip side, the Sharks give up 2.08, on average, to the opposition on the road. Make sure you circle Feb. 12th on your calendars, as the head to head matchup between the Blues and the Sharks at Scotttrade Center should be a doozy.
Third period goals

Written by Ryan Ma Tuesday, 27 December 2011 12:20 - Last Updated Wednesday, 28 December 2011 06:08 Surprisingly, it's the Predators that are the comeback kids, leading the Western Conference in third period goals with 42. That's pretty much what they'll to need to continue to do in order to sneak into another playoff spot come April. One goal games The Stars are 11-2-1 in one-goal games followed by Colorado 13-5-1 and Chicago at 10-3-4. Edmonton 3-5-3 and Columbus 5-8-4 are the worst. That could be the difference between making the playoffs and missing them. SOG

If you're looking for offense you probably don't have to look much further than the Sharks. Once again they're amongst the league leaders averaging 34.5 SOG per contest. Minny is the worst

at 26.2, no wonder they're not winning very many games at the moment!

9/11



Written by Ryan Ma Tuesday, 27 December 2011 12:20 - Last Updated Wednesday, 28 December 2011 06:08

It's a tale of two teams as the Flames maintain 10.4 percent power-play efficiency at home, but 25 percent efficiency on the road. Can anyone out there explain that to me? The Avs are in a similar boat as they maintain 13.4 effectiveness at home, but a league-leading 27.9 percent efficiency on the road. If those two teams are going to make the post-season, the reason might lie within the power-play.

On the flip side of the coin, the one area that the Blues particularly need help on is the PP. St. Louis is dead last in terms of power-play effectiveness, as they're connecting on just 11.9 percent of their opportunities.

Questions or comments? As always I'll discuss them in the section below. I wish you and your family a Happy New Year and I hope to see you guys back here again next week as we analyse my projections from the pre-season guide.