

A tough decision can be made easier with these charts showing you the best five and worst five schedules for upcoming seven-day periods. Some of you used them last year but for the benefit of new readers here is a refresher. The number next to the team indicates the 'multiplier' to use on a player's point-per-game pace to give you an idea how many points to expect for that week.

The beginning of December means that most teams are hitting the quarter pole of their regular season. The 20-game mark is usually a pretty good indication as to how teams will play for the rest of the year.

A recent road trip is not helping the Los Angeles Kings, who went from 4-4 on the road at the

Looking Ahead - Week 8

Written by Dave Poleck

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time of last week's article, to 5-7 through this week. They have Chicago at home on Saturday before heading over to Anaheim for one game, then a nice four game homestand starting Thursday, December 2.

The Blue Jackets, currently tied with the Wings for tops in the Western Conference, are an astonishing 8-1 on the road so far this season. Their upcoming schedule doesn't have any long trips at home or on the road (but look out in January). Mason and Garon have been absolutely fantastic which has led to their score indicator being adjusted twice already in 2010-11.

Christmas is coming early for three of the teams in the Northeast Division as Edmonton will begin a trip to Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto this week. The Oilers have been bad wherever they play, and the Sens, Habs and Leafs all sit with winning records at home.

The Hurricanes schedule, which has evened out after their lopsided start to the season away from home, is about to take another big jump in the road games column. Seven of their next nine games

are away

from home and they are really going to have to put some wins together if they want to stay in the East playoff picture.

Best Bets

Ottawa 4.27 - four games @PIT, TOR, EDM, SJ Edmonton 4.23 - four games SJ, @OTT, @MON, @TOR Toronto 4.23 - four games @BUF, @OTT, TB, EDM

NY Rangers 4.20 - four games @FLA, @NAS, PIT, @NYI

St. Louis 4.18 - four games @NAS, @DAL, DAL, CHI

Steer Clear

NY Islanders 1.74 - two games NJ, NYR

Colorado 1.90 - two games MIN, ATL

Vancouver 2.00 - two games SJ, CAL

Buffalo 2.09 - two games TOR, @MON

Columbus 2.71 - three games DET, @DET, NAS

7 to Friday December 3, 2010

Best Bets

Edmonton 4.23 - four games SJ, @OTT, @MON, @TOR

NY Rangers 4.20 - four games @NAS, PIT, @NYI, NYI

Minnesota 3.98 - four games @COL, @CAL, PHO, Cal

Calgary 3.72 - four games @PIT, MIN, VAN, @MIN

Anaheim 3.68 - four games @PHO, LA, FLA, DET

Steer Clear

Philadelphia 1.76 - @NJ, BOS

NJ 1.82 - two games PHI, MON

NY Islanders 1.87 - two games NYR, @NYR

Buffalo 1.96 - two games @MON, CBJ

Vancouver 2.10 - two games @CAL, @COL

to Saturday December 4, 2010

Best Bets

Boston 4.43 - four games @ATL, @PHI, TB, @TOR

Edmonton 4.14 - four games @OTT, @MON, @TOR, STL

Detroit 4.12 - four games CBJ, @SJ, @ANA, @LA

Atlanta 4.09 - four games BOS, @COL, @WAS, @PIT

Washinton 4.08 - four games CAR, @STL, @DAL, ATL

Steer Clear

Philadelphia 1.67 - BOS, NJ

Chicago 1.71 - two games STL, VAN

NY Islanders 1.87 - two games NYR, @NYR

NJ 1.92 - two games MON, @PHI

Buffalo 2.02 - two games CBJ, @OTT

to Sunday December 5, 2010

Best Bets

NY Rangers 4.20 - four games PIT, @NYI, NYI, OTT

Phoenix 4.12 - four games @NAS, @MIN, FLA, @ANA

St. Louis 4.12 - four games @CHI, WAS, @EDM, @VAN

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Edmonton 4.08 - four games @OTT, @MON, @TOR, STL

Ottawa 3.94 - four games EDM, SJ, BUF, @NYR

Steer Clear

New Jersey 1.87 - two games MON, @PHI

Buffalo 2.02 - two games CBJ, @OTT

Chicago 2.57 - three games STL, VAN, CAL

Vancouver 2.74 - three games @CAL, @CHI, STL

Columbus 2.75 - three games NAS, @BUF, PIT

to Monday December 6, 2010

Best Bets

Washington 4.22 - four games @STL, @DAL, ATL, TOR

Phoenix 4.12 - four games @NAS, @MIN, FLA, @ANA

St. Louis 4.12 - four games @CHI, WAS, @EDM, @VAN

Boston 4.12 - four games @PHI, TB, @TOR, BUF

Toronto 4.09 - four games TB, EDM, BOS, @WAS

Steer Clear

Los Angeles 1.88 - two games FLA, DET

Carolina 1.90 - two games COL, @NAS

Buffalo 2.02 - two games CBJ, @OTT

Chicago 2.57 - three games STL, VAN, CAL

Anaheim 2.70 - three games FLA, DET, PHO

r 1 to Tuesday December 7, 2010

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Best Bets

Washington 4.22 - four games @STL, @DAL, ATL, TOR Boston 4.12 - four games @PHI, TB, @TOR, BUF

Edmonton 4.03 - four games @MON, @TOR, STL, ANA

Montreal 4.02 - four games EDM, @NJ, SJ, OTT

Florida 3.98 - four games @ANA, @LA, @PHO, COL

Steer Clear

Chicago 1.71 - two games VAN, STL

Los Angeles 1.88 - two games FLA, DET

Carolina 1.90 - two games COL, @NAS

Vancouver 2.74 - three games @CAL, @CHI, STL

NY Islanders 2.79 - three games NYR, @NYR, PHI

to Wednesday December 8, 2010

Best Bets

Toronto 4.09 - four games TB, EDM, BOS, @WAS

Pittsburgh 4.04 - four games ATL, @CBJ, NJ, TOR

San Jose 4.01 - four games @OTT, @MON, @DET, @PHI

Anaheim 3.93 - four games DET, PHO, @EDM, @VAN

Detroit 3.92 - four games @ANA, @LA, SJ, NAS

Steer Clear

Los Angeles 1.88 - two games FLA, DET

Carolina 1.90 - two games COL, @NAS

Minnesota 2.00 - two games CAL, @DAL

Phoenix 2.13 - two games FLA, @ANA

St. Louis 2.23 - two games @EDM, @VAN

Thursday December 9, 2010

Best Bets

Philadelphia 4.20 - four games NJ, @NYI, SJ, @TOR

Calgary 4.04 - four games @MIN, @CHI, TB, @LA

Anaheim 3.93 - four games DET, PHO, @EDM, @VAN

Detroit 3.92 - four games @ANA, @LA, SJ, NAS

Columbus 3.88 - four games @BUF, PIT, DAL, @STL

Steer Clear

Los Angeles 1.74 - two games DET, CAL

Edmonton 1.88 - two games STL, ANA

Carolina 1.90 - two games COL, @NAS

Tampa Bay 1.90 - two games COL, @CAL

Atlanta 1.91 - two games @WAS, NAS

to Friday December 10, 2010

Best Bets

Ottawa 4.52 - five games BUF, @NYR, @MON, NYR, NJ

Philadelphia 4.20 - four games NJ, @NYI, SJ, @TOR

Calgary 4.12 - four games @CHI, TB, @LA, @ANA

Dallas 3.99 - four games MIN, @CBJ, @CHI, CAR

Anaheim 3.91 - four games PHO, @EDM, @VAN, CAL

Steer Clear

Los Angeles 1.74 - two games DET, CAL

NY Islanders 1.82 - two games PHI, @BOS

Vancouver 1.88 - two games STL, ANA

Chicago 1.89 - two games CAL, DAL

NY Rangers - 2.04 - two games OTT, @OTT

Saturday December 11, 2010

Best Bets

Philadelphia 4.25 - four games @NYI, SJ, @TOR, @BOS

Calgary 4.12 - four games @CHI, TB, @LA, @ANA

Dallas 3.95 - four games @CBJ, @CHI, CAR, @PHO

Anaheim 3.91 - four games PHO, @EDM, @VAN, CAL

Toronto 3.89 - four games @WAS, @PIT, PHI, MON

Steer Clear

Los Angeles 1.81 - two games CAL, MIN

Minnesota 1.90 - two games @PHO, @LA

Edmonton 2.08 - two games ANA, TB

Carolina 2.09 - two games @DAL, @STL

Buffalo 2.82 - three games @BOS, SJ, PIT

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