Written by Brent Lemon Wednesday, 09 June 2010 09:52 - Last Updated Thursday, 10 June 2010 19:24



Aneroid, Saskatchewan is best known for two things: a piece of lost survey equipment and NHL star, Patrick Marleau. And with all due respect to that long-ago misplaced aneroid barometer, you're probably more interested in the 44-goal-scoring former captain of the San Jose Sharks.

In this age of overwhelming information, it is refreshingly unclear whether or not Marleau was actually born in Aneroid (some sources suggest he was born in nearby Swift Current), but he did spend his childhood growing up in the tiny hamlet in the southwest corner of Canada's most-difficult-to spell province before being drafted by the Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League in 1995.



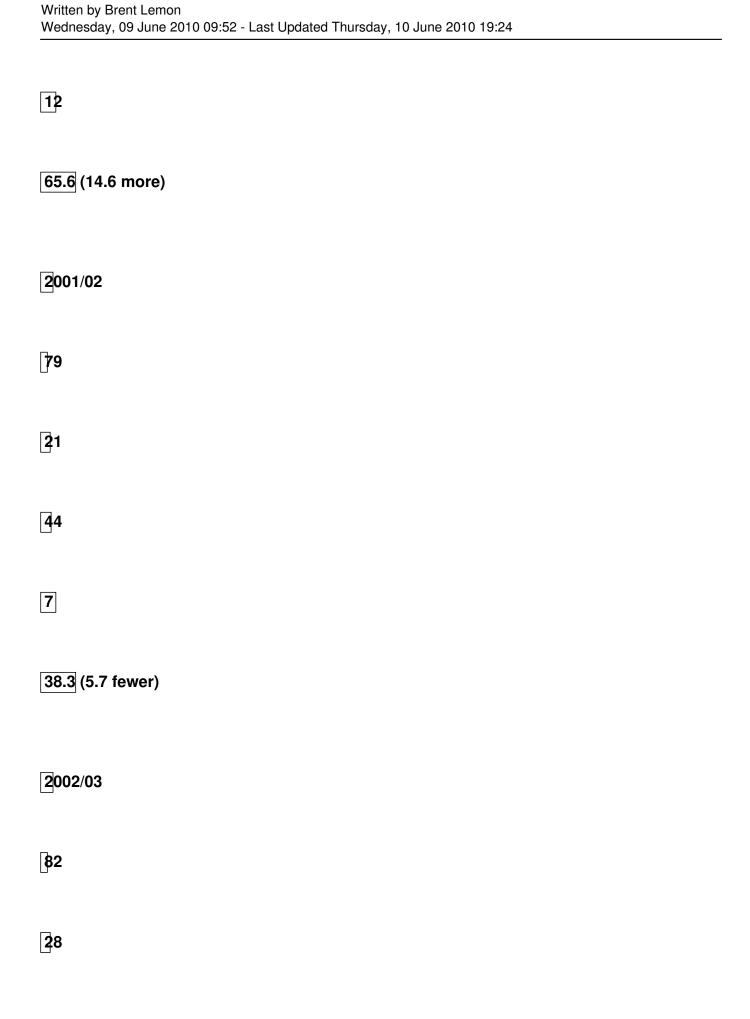
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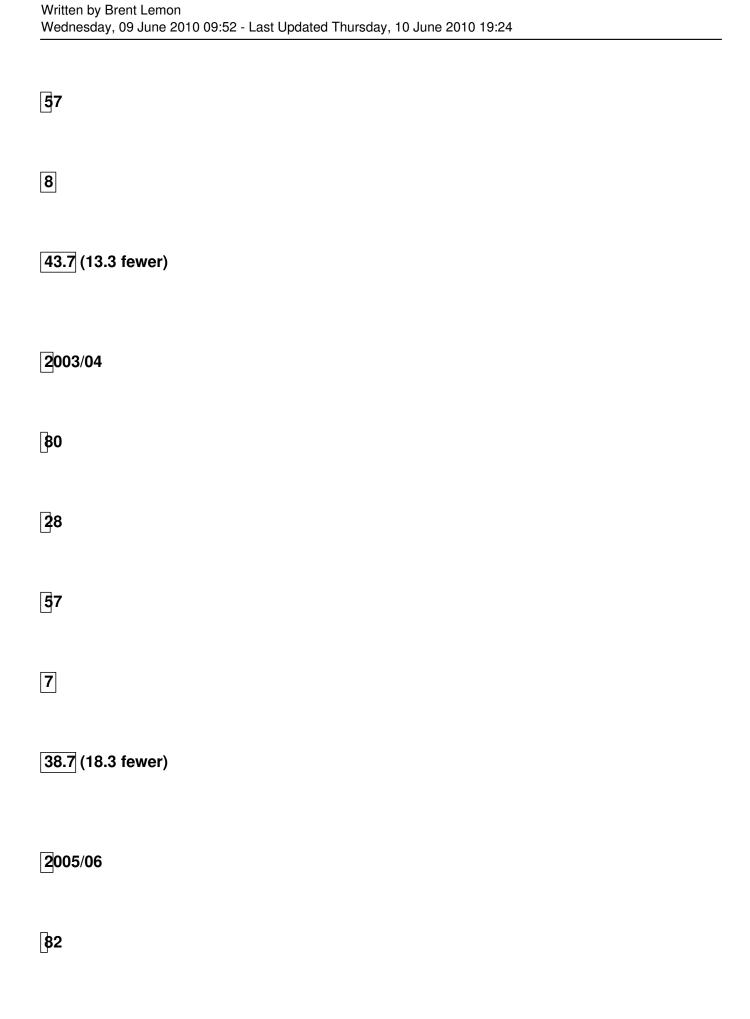
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| All this success comes with a punch line however; the 30-year-old goes into this off-season as Unrestricted Free Agent (UFA). |
| It's been a wide ride in the last few years, but what can poolies expect from the intriguing son-of-Saskatchewan in 2010-11? |
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| Marleau's Numbers |
| |
| GP |
| Goals |
| Points |
| Points After First 15 Games |

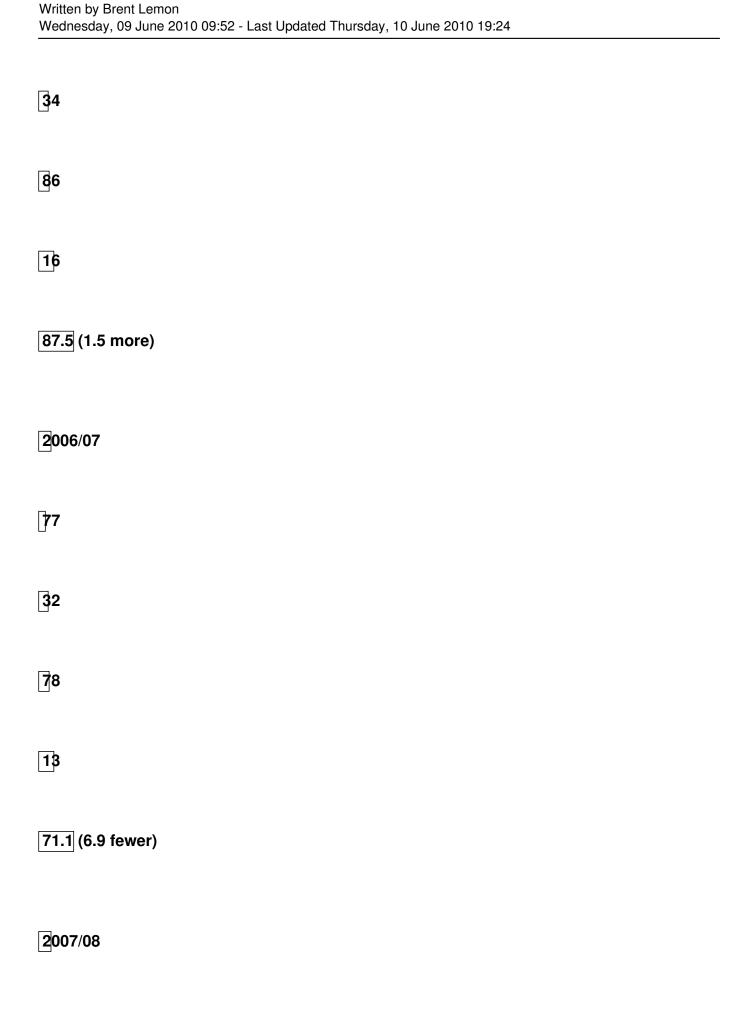
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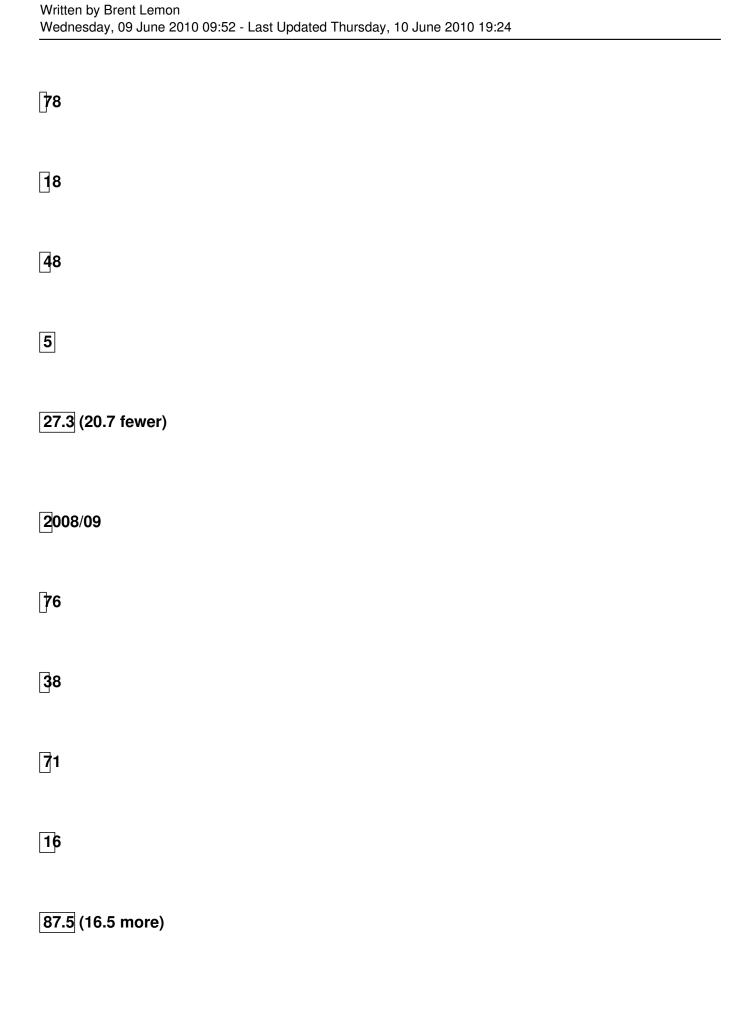
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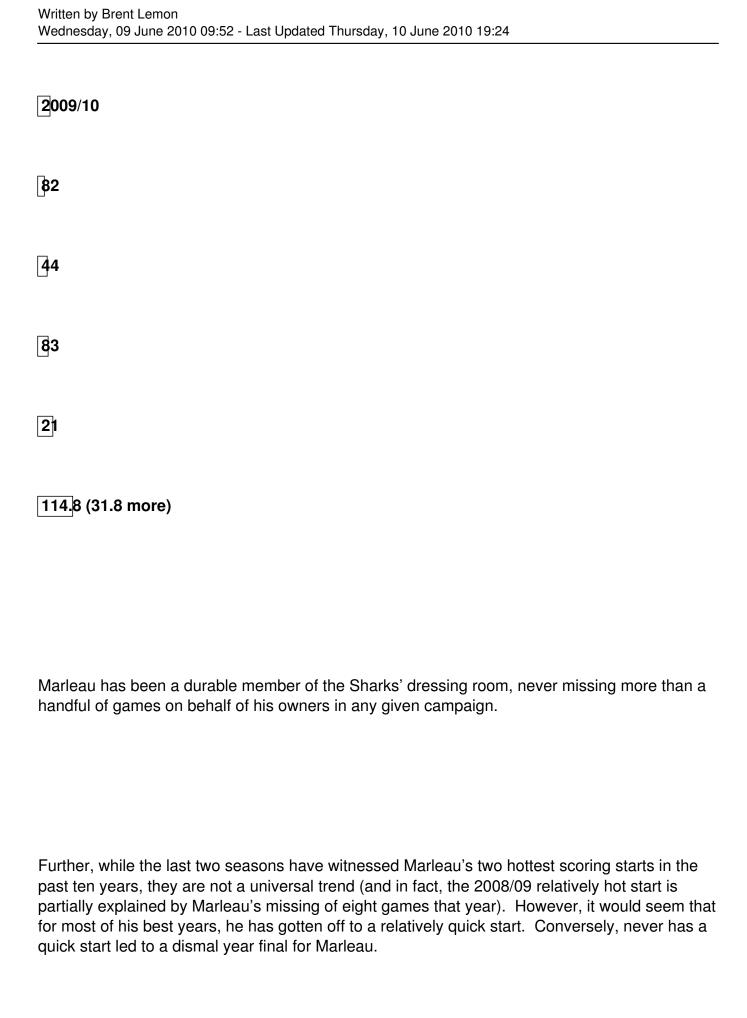
Projected points based first 15 games over an 82-game schedule 1999/00 81 **17** 40 8 43.7 (3.7 more than actual) 2000/01 81 **2**5 **52**

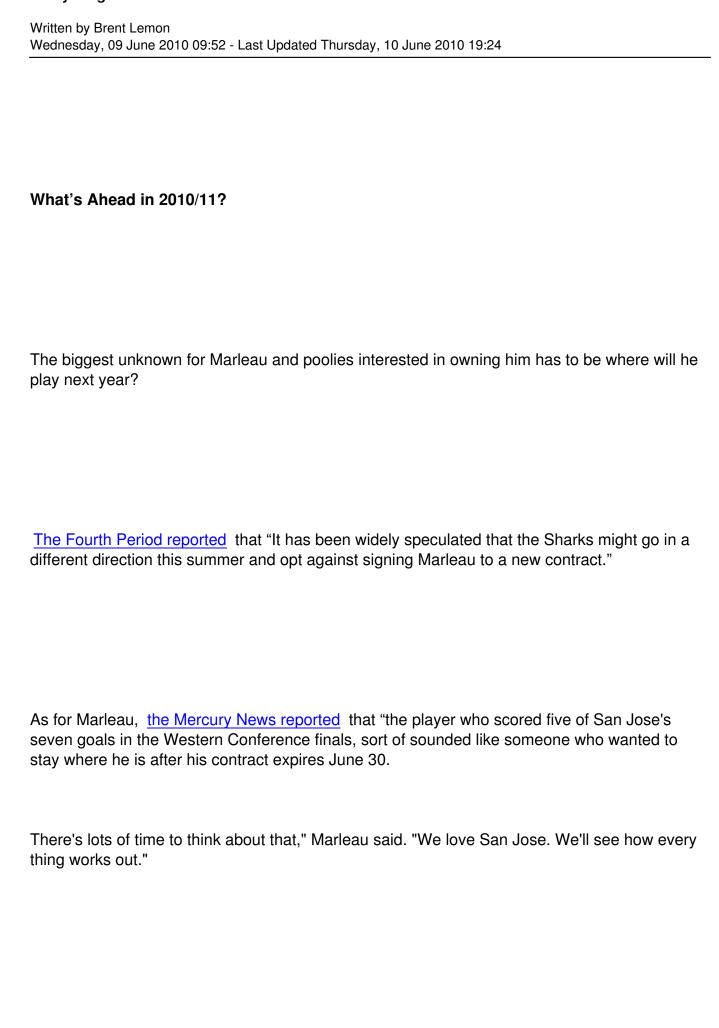












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Some have speculated that because of the Marleau family's love of California that he will take offers from the Los Angeles Kings or Anaheim Ducks very seriously. The Kings are very much in the market for a scorer and while most rumours talk about Ilya Kovalchuck, some, including Lyle "Spector" Richardson

, think the Kings will pursue Marleau over Kovie.

Now that's likely a tempting image for some owners: Marleau on Anze Kopitar's wing. But before we get caught up in the novelty of Marleau in a Kings' sweater, we must remember that he spent most of his brilliant 2009/10 season working with Dany Heatley and Joe Thornton – hardly regular season slouches.

Further, despite playing for a single NHL franchise his entire career, Marleau has watched the Sharks almost constantly evolve around him. If Lombardi successfully persuades the Marleaus to move south along Highway 5 there will be some who predict radical changes to Patrick's scoring, but the veteran's scoring trends have already weathered some significant changes and wild changes are unlikely.

Marleau's demonstrated ability to pile up points makes him a tempting target for your squad this fall, but as his scoring trends illustrate, he is less than entirely predictable despite his durability. This year's UFA status further complicates things – likely raising poolie interest but also further clouding predictions for 2010/11.

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And that unpredictability seems deliciously ironic for a man from a town named after a barometer.