

NHL Rookies and the Magical 10-Game Mark

Written by Jeff Angus

Wednesday, 29 October 2008 12:36 - Last Updated Thursday, 30 October 2008 03:31



In doing some digging, DobberHockey has put together a "lowdown" of sorts on all the NHL rookies and their odds of sticking in the NHL for that 10th game. When a rookie plays 10 games, the first year of his entry-level deal kicks in. Generally, that means that the team will have to pay him a non-capped salary one year sooner than they would have. The entry-level cap is for three years, after which the player can make as much as 20 percent of the team's salary cap. So for fiscal reasons, the 10-game plateau is key.

Anaheim

None to report

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Atlanta

No word on whether Zach Bogosian is going to get sent down or not, but based on his inconsistent play it would be a smart move for him to spend another year developing in the OHL. He is currently injured, so if anything it buys the Thrashers management some time to make a decision.

Boston

I think Blake Wheeler will stick in Boston, even with his minutes decreasing in recent games. He is a smart player who is competent defensively and is not out of his element playing more of a two-way game.

Buffalo

Nate Gerbe is tearing it up in the AHL right now, and is not very far from a call up to Buffalo. He has give goals and seven points in his first five pro games, which is very impressive. He is tiny but has the skill and smarts to be a star in the NHL. If there is an injury to Buffalo's top six, one would think Gerbe is next in line (ahead of Marek Zagraban).

Calgary

None to report

Carolina

None to report

Chicago

None to report

Colorado

None to report

Columbus

Jakub Voracek has been one of the most consistent Jackets and looks to be the early Calder favourite. Derick Brassard has been solid as well (and has already played his 10 games so he is not going anywhere), but the Jackets have shifted him to wing to try and get a spark. This team needs a bona fide top line center in a bad way. Expect Nikita Filatov to bounce back between Syracuse and Columbus this season, even though he is more than NHL ready. Thanks, Hitchcock.

Dallas

James Neal and BJ Crombeen have both impressed the Stars management and look to stay with the big club all year. Neal especially, he has big upside with his combination of size and skill. Fabian Brunnstrom has been effective after flying out of the gates with a hat trick in his first game, but he may be the victim of a numbers game as the Stars need some help preventing goals, not scoring them.

Detroit

None to report

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Edmonton

None to report

Florida

Michael Frolik has outperformed Shawn Matthias so far this season and has stuck with the Panthers (so far). Frolik may or may not stick in Florida - it depends how much the Panthers want to give Matthias a chance. Ideally both of them would be on the team but there are a lot of veterans in Florida on one-way deals who have a claim on the roster spots that these two young guys are fighting for.

Los Angeles

Drew Doughty has been very impressive and will be sticking with the Kings all year. Sean O'Donnell has been his partner and is a great veteran defensive defenseman for Doughty to play with as he develops into an NHL defenseman. Oscar Moller is a great sleeper pick for keeper leagues. He beat out the much-hyped Teddy Purcell for the second line wing spot, and has looked great. He is not very big, but is a good skater and has an insane work ethic. I remember watching him play for the Chilliwack Bruins of the WHL, and have always been impressed with his drive. Good players with great work ethics often become better than their skill levels dictate. Keep that in mind. Moller will stick around past the 10 game cut-off point. If they feel the need to bring up Purcell, it will not be at his expense, he has earned his place in Los Angeles and will not be leaving any time soon.

Minnesota

Colton Gilles will get the same treatment that Brent Burns, Pierre Marc Bouchard, and James Sheppard all got. He will stay with the pro club all year but will only play in 60-70 games. The Wild like to develop their prospects while playing for the big club. His offensive upside is limited but he should develop into an elite checking line forward.

Montreal

None to report

Nashville

Patric Hornqvist was a bit tentative and out of his element in the first few games, but has looked much better lately (had a two assist game last week). Ryan Jones has looked decent as well – not flashy but he is solid at both ends of the ice. Keep an eye on Antti Pihlstrom, he should have made the team but the Predators had too many one-way contracts and had to send someone down. He is skilled and very annoying to play against.

New Jersey

Russian prospect Alexander Vasyunov is coming over to play in the AHL. He was very highly touted but dropped because of the lack of transfer agreement. Keep an eye on how he does for Lowell. Petr Vrana will reach 10 games because he needs to clear waivers to be sent down.

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Long Island

It is tough to get an update on Josh Bailey's injury status. He should not have made the team in the first place, but the Islanders do not always handle their young talent in the best ways. Bailey may play a few games when he returns, but he needs at least one more year in the OHL. Kyle Okposo will play his 10th game for sure - he played nine last year.

New York

Lauri Korpikoski was sent down to Hartford, but he is an NHL player. The Rangers have a logjam at forward with one-way deals, and no room for him. He is a high-energy player with some skill – they need to make room for him.

Ottawa

Jesse Winchester has been solid so far for the Senators. He is a versatile forward that will probably be shuffled throughout the lineup this season. His cheap contract makes him even more valuable to Ottawa.

Philadelphia

The Flyers have been very impressed with Luca Sbisa and he will be sticking with the big club. He plays a strong, smart game and has given the Flyers some options as their defensive depth is lacking. Like most young defensemen, do not expect his offensive game to develop for a few more seasons. Andreas Nodl has looked very solid as well after being called up by the Flyers. He has some developing to do but looks to be on his way to developing into a solid second line player. He may force the Flyers to make some room for him if he keeps his solid play up this season. He should stick with the club unless he is the victim of a numbers game. Daniel Briere's injury ups his chances.

Phoenix

Wayne Gretzky absolutely loves Mikkel Boedker's game and told the Kitchener Rangers not to give his jersey number away (i.e. he is not going back). He has looked NHL ready, but will suffer with consistency issues, along with the other young Coyotes. This is a team on the rise, though. Viktor Tikhonov will stick with the big club as well, and has looked good skating on a line with Daniel Winnik and Martin Hanzal. Kyle Turris has been pretty decent, but the Coyotes are protecting him by playing him with the likes of Todd Fedoruk and Brian McGrattan (at times). He is a stud to have in a keeper league but don't expect an offensive explosion until next year. Kevin Porter is another guy to watch – he has been shuffled around the lineup a bit, including a stint playing with Dan Carcillo and Peter Mueller. He has a modest two points in seven games, but is someone to keep in mind for deep keeper leagues.

Pittsburgh

None to report

St. Louis

Alex Pietrangelo is still recovering from the results of a Ryan Hollweg hit. The Blues are unsure if they are going to keep him up with the main team, but once he gets healthy and starts to play again, they will have to make a decision. Personally, I think he sticks with the team this season. The Blues have enough solid veterans to shelter his minutes if need be. TJ Oshie and Patrik

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Berglund are no-brainers. They're in.

San Jose

None to report

Tampa Bay

Steve Stamkos has had a tough start (as have the Lightning as a whole). He has one measly assist through the first nine games, but with the hype he received, the Lightning will not be sending him back. Ryan Malone has been disappointing, and the other winger brought in to play with Stamkos (Radim Vrbata), has been a healthy scratch.

Toronto

Luke Schenn has been the third best Leafs defenseman this year behind Pavel Kubina and Tomas Kaberle, and he will be sticking with the big club all year. He is already averaging more than 20 minutes a game and is playing in crucial defensive situations. Once he adds a bit more size and gets more acclimatized to the NHL game, watch out. Nikolai Kulemin is skating on the second line with Mikhail Grabovski and Nik Hagman, and has been solid. His play has tailed off a bit after a hot start, but the Leafs will want to keep him with the big club for as long as possible.

Vancouver

None to report

Washington

None to report