

Trade Breakdown - Keeper League Style

Written by Jeff Angus

Wednesday, 22 February 2012 20:35 - Last Updated Thursday, 23 February 2012 10:17



I have been toying with the idea of a retool (I refuse to rebuild) in one of my keeper leagues all year long. My team was built largely around Sidney Crosby, and his injury has really crippled any hopes I had of contending this year. Like the Tampa Bay Lightning, I also held on to Dwayne Roloson for one year too long. In a goalie-dominant league, having a liability as one of my starting goaltenders wasn't exactly the best strategy. My other goalies include Roberto Luongo and Cory Schneider, who have combined to be a very good tandem for me, but I simply haven't gotten enough quality starts to do much of anything.

As of late February, I was sitting in 8th out of 12 in my league. I have been in negotiations with some of my veteran forwards, and decided to make a move on a few of them.

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The trade:

Outgoing: Vincent Lecavalier, Johan Franzen

Incoming: David Krejci, Chris Stewart

After much deliberating, I accepted the trade. I am taking a risk that Chris Stewart turns his game around next season and beyond. I used the [HockeyPoolGeek](#) 'Trade Breakdown' tool to help with the analysis – on paper I am losing value for this season and next, but when I plugged in my own projections (not always the most advisable strategy), I was gaining for two years out and beyond. One of my golden rules of trading is to evaluate all trades with a three year scope, and I did exactly that.

My five reasons for making this trade:

1) Straight across, I like Krejci more than Lecavalier. Better potential linemates for both present and future, and he seems to be on the upslope of his career, while Lecavalier's best days are

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behind him. I took a risk on Lecavalier last season, and he hasn't panned out. He is a very good center in the NHL and in this league, but I like what Krejci will give me a bit more (especially with the uncertainty regarding Crosby).

2) I think Johan Franzen has another year of elite production in him, and then we will start to see a decline. I think a lot of Detroit's top power play production depends on Lidstrom (duh), and his time in the NHL is running out as well.

3) As I mentioned earlier, I like Chris Stewart. He has been bad this year, but he showed last year what he is capable of in the right situation. The fact that he plays with a physical edge helps in a league that counts PIM and hits as a statistic. He's eight years younger than Franzen.

4) It allows me to shift my window to win a bit. My team is full of veterans, and I don't want to go through a full-scale rebuild (losing in fantasy hockey bores me, although I guess 8th out of 12 with a lot of veterans isn't anything to write home about either). I have some nice pieces for the future, and proven NHLers in their mid-20's like Stewart and Krejci will help bridge the gap better than Lecavalier or Franzen would have.

5) I like trading. This is the first trade of significance I have made in any of my pools in the last few months. I think this trade has the potential to benefit both sides (the other team is in more of a win-now mode), and win-win trades are the best way to build allies in your hockey pools. You can't fleece the other GM every single time.