Are you wondering what your plan of attack should be in your fantasy hockey pool this summer? Preparing for a draft? Upset about some trades you made in the past? I'll weigh in with my thoughts on the interesting and important issues.

This week, I took a look at the team submitted to me by *The 10th Rounders.*

The Team

The 10th Rounders

The Rules

Standard rotisserie league

11 teams

Salary cap of $1000 at the end of each annual draft

Salaries bump 30% each season for keepers

Scoring Categories

Goals, Forward Assists, Defenseman Assists, Blocked Shots, Plus-minus, PIM, Special Teams Points

Wins, GAA, Saves

The Roster

C		
Salary		
Brandon Dubinsky	C NYR	20
Anze Kopitar	C LA	65
Tomas Plekanec	C MON	20
Steven Stamkos	C TB	30
Alex Steen	C STL	20
Antoine Vermette	C CLB	20
LW		
James Neal	LW DAL	20
Loui Eriksson	LW DAL	30
David Booth	LW FLA	30
Mason Raymond	LW VAN	20
James van Riemsdyk	LW PHI	20
RW		
David Clarkson	RW NJ	40
Patric Hornqvist	RW NSH	20
Niclas Bergfors	RW ATL	20
Teddy Purcell	RW TB	20
Mikael Samuelsson	RW VAN	30
Martin St. Louis	RW TB	65
D		

John Carlson	D WAS	20
Niklas Kronwall	D DET	40
Andrei Markov	D MON	40
Tom Poti	D WAS	20
Anton Stralman	D CLB	20
Mark Streit	D NYI	30
Brian Campbell	D CHI	55
Jay McKee	D PIT	20
G		

Johan Hedberg	G ATL	20
Jimmy Howard	G DET	20
Steve Mason	G CLB	30
Ondrej Pavelec	G ATL	20
Mathieu Garon	G CLB	20

Total salary = $845

The Breakdown

Each team in this league has to protect nine forwards, four defensemen, and two goalies. I like what this particular person did with the audit. Instead of sending me his preferences for keepers, he left it blank. That way, I go into the keeper selection process with no biases or ideas of which players he is targeting.

My keeper choices:

C		
Salary		
Anze Kopitar	C LA	65
Tomas Plekanec	C MON	20
Steven Stamkos	C TB	30
LW		

James Neal	LW DAL	20
Loui Eriksson	LW DAL	30
James van Riemsdyk	LW PHI	20
RW		

David Clarkson	RW NJ	40
Patric Hornqvist	RW NSH	20
Martin St. Louis	RW TB	65
D		

John Carlson	D WAS	20
Niklas Kronwall	D DET	40
Andrei Markov	D MON	40
Mark Streit	D NYI	30
G		

Steve Mason	G CLB	30
Ondrej Pavelec	G ATL	20

Total salary = $490

I made a few tough decisions. First off, these are unique scoring categories. Before reading what they were, I did a double take when I saw Jay McKee on the roster!

I tried to keep things relatively balanced up front by keeping three from each position. Plekanec is a bit more proven than both Steen and Vermette, but all three are probably 55-70 point players next season.

I like the two Dallas wingers (especially Neal). I am expecting a real breakout season from him in 2010-11. Clarkson is great with these categories – I could see 20-25 goals, and close to 200 PIM next season. Hornqvist's ability to score on the power play gave him a leg up over a few other similar wingers production-wise (Raymond and Bergfors). Booth's concussion problems scare me, and he has more value in leagues that count shots on goal.

The defensemen are all very solid. Campbell barely missed the cut – I like Streit a bit more, and those were the two I was deciding between. Streit is simply a better defenseman to own, in my opinion. If you want to stack up defensemen, drop Hornqvist and keep Campbell.

In goal, I opted for Mason and Pavelec over Howard. I am still not sold on Howard, but you may not want to take a risk with these two young players. Pavelec had a good rookie season and his upside is huge. Mason struggled last season, but I have seen him steal his fair share of games at the NHL level. If you want to keep Howard, I'd probably stick with Mason out of the two

youngsters.

With regards to blocked shots, I have never been in a league that uses it as a category. Who are the best players? Is blocked shots a category you fill with a one-dimensional guy like Anton Volchenkov, or can you get more of a two-way defenseman who can chip in 30 or 40 points?

The Recommendations

1) Go big. With only $490 committed in salary, you have $510 to spend this summer. Before your keeper lists are due, try and trade your best non-keepers (Howard, Campbell, Raymond, Steen, Vermette) in 2-for-1 trades. **Upgrade, upgrade, upgrade!**

2) Target an elite goalie. Whichever two of the three goalies you keep, you are bound for some ups and downs. Try and get a steady, consistent, star goalie to help minimize the fluctuations.