Fantasy Impact: The Detroit Red Wings have inked veteran defenseman Carlo Colaiacovo to a two-year contract worth $2.5 million per season.

The Red Wings get: a solid two-way defenseman who is well-known as one of the bigger band-aid boys in the entire league. Colaiacovo spent most of last season playing alongside Alex Pietrangelo, and he had a pretty solid year because of it. He won't replace Nick Lidstrom in any regard, but he is a solid second pairing defenseman who will be able to play 18-20 minutes per night. Colaiacovo's 19 points last season was his lowest total since coming over to St. Louis in 2008 – he had three straight years of 25-32 points before.

He isn't as bad defensively as many think, either, but playing with a rising superstar like Pietrangelo definitely helped in that regard.

Fantasy Players Impacted:

Obviously this is great for Colaiacovo, as he goes from a man without a contract to playing for a very good hockey club. This doesn't affect Nicklas Kronwall, Kyle Quincey, or Ian White at all, but it provides some more competition for all of Detroit's other defensemen, most notably Jonathan Ericsson, Brendan Smith, and Jakub Kindl.

Assuming Colaiacovo is healthy, he bumps one of Smith or Kindl out of the top six (for now).

Wings GM Ken Holland:

"He's a veteran. He's played in the NHL. Smith is a rookie. Kindl has been around a bit but hasn't really had the opportunity to establish himself. Carlo gives us another veteran defenseman for our team. He can play on power play. He's got the ability to get the puck in the hands of our forwards. It's another veteran."

Holland and the Wings are aware that Colaiacovo is likely good for about 60-65 games per season (perhaps a shortened season helps him in that regard). The Wings didn't want to go into the season with Smith and Kindl holding down spots without earning them – it wouldn't be the Detroit way to do that.

Fantasy Players this helps, in order:

1. Colaiacovo

Fantasy Players this hurts, in order:

1. Smith (short term only)

2. Kindl

3. Ericsson