The 2012 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs are set to begin only a few short days from now, and what better way to celebrate than with the 2012 DobberHockey Playoff Challenge! The fine folks over at HockeyDraft.ca are hosting the pool this spring, and it is completely free to enter!

Playoff pools require quite a bit of luck (or intuition, whatever you may call it) to win compared to regular season pools, thanks to the fact that the success of the players you pick is heavily dependent on how long their teams stick around.

Don't forget to pick up the 2012 DobberHockey Interactive Playoff Draft List ! You check off the

boxes of the teams you feel will come out of the first rounds and who will meet in the Final. Click "GO" and this MS Excel spreadsheet will auto-sort for you, ready to print, your draft list. Includes updated injury news, playoff studs and duds, as well as Dobber's own draft list for you to refer to. This is all you'll need to win your playoff pool!

To register:

1. Click this link , which will take you to the 2012 DobberHockey Playoff Challenge page over at HockeyDraft.ca.

2. Enter your name, a password and your email address.

3. Read the terms and conditions, which help to explain more about the rules and scoring system we are using, and then proceed to make your selections. One entry per person.

How it works:

1. Sign up to select your team

2. Choose 1 player from each box. You can change your picks right up until 7pm on April 10.

3. Log in to the pool every day to see the stats and standings.

4. The individual who has selected the team with the most points at the end of the postseason wins!

The Rules:

Forwards: One per Goal; One per Assist

Defensemen: One per Goal; One per Assist

"Team" Goalies: One per Win; Two per Shutout

Prizes:

1st Place: The winner will receive a fully customizable NHL hockey jersey ($225 value), courtesy of Cool Hockey . The team/player is your choice!

2nd Place: The entrant who ends up in second will receive a framed and signed 8x10 autographed Alex Burrows photo courtesy of The Fan Zoo !

3rd Place: Dobber's 2012 Keeper League Fantasy Pack! (That's the Fantasy Prospects Report and the Preseason Fantasy Guide)

Spread the word - challenge your friends! Put bragging rights on the line by using one of the links above to share this on Facebook and Twitter. Then when you embarrass them you can tease them all summer!

About the Draft List - updated through Friday April 6 - here is a sample of how it works:

{youtube}fjOeMnEAmHw{/youtube}

Other playoff help for you – here are:

Dobber's dark horse picks – The Hockey News – Western Conference

Dobber's dark horse picks – The Hockey News – Eastern Conference

Dobber's Western Conference breakdown for Yahoo! Puck Daddy

Dobber's Eastern Conference breakdown for Yahoo! Puck Daddy

Dobber's thought process in a basic office pool draft that he did with The Hockey News