

Detroit Confounding Poolies

Written by Dobber

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Disclaimer: This article was written May 16 and published May 17 by The Hockey News, ESPN.com, and MSN.ca. Much of it is obsolete now, but I like to archive all my works on this site. It's still a good read, but yes, it's dated.

In a postseason with relatively few surprises, there is one team that is tough to figure out.

Hockey Town, USA is dominant one game, MIA the next. Detroit top forward Pavel Datsyuk is invisible one game, and putting up two points the next. Chris Chelios, 45, is logging over 20 minutes per game. Todd Bertuzzi, 32 and just three years removed from a 97-point season, is logging 10 minutes a game. But suddenly...he plays over 16 (Tuesday)? And don't get me

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started on Kyle Calder. Who are these guys?

The Wings did not beat easy teams to get to where they are. They had to go through the Flames and the Sharks. With Detroit playing Calgary to kick off the postseason, a lot of poolies stayed away from that series altogether, while still more went with the Flames. Those that liked Detroit knew that Niklas Lidstrom and Henrik Zetterberg were safe choices – but where to go from there?

Pavel Datsyuk's track record in the postseason has been horrible, but those poolies that were not scared off by that are reaping the rewards. Todd Bertuzzi and Robert Lang, on the other hand, are playing like 40-point players. Both of them were expected to have these points, five and seven respectively, if Detroit was knocked out in the first round!

This all goes to show that the losing poolies are right in their grumblings when they say: "playoff pools are a crapshoot". Mark my words – only the losing poolies are saying it. The winners will say it next year, when they lose.

Farm Report: Providence may have gone down in six games to Manchester, but Boston prospect Dave Krejci impressed tremendously. After productive, but not eye-popping seasons in junior, Krejci posted an impressive 74 points in 69 AHL contests. His cup of coffee with Boston was a bit of a letdown (pointless in six), but his ice time was minimal. In the Calder Cup playoffs, however, he was a whole new man. The 20-year-old tallied 16 points in 13 games and was only kept off the scoresheet on two occasions. That kind of clutch play will get him a long look at camp in the fall. Krejci could potentially be a second-line center.