

Dark Horses for Your Roto-League

Written by Dobber

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Those of you in roto-style leagues – that is, leagues that count multiple stat categories, have positional requirements and weekly roster settings – are looking for that late-round pick to put you over the top. Here are some suggestions...

[Sean Bergenheim, LW, Islanders](#) - Several things are going for him here. First of all, the left wing position in roto leagues is probably the most difficult position to fill. Bergenheim is a left winger. He is also capable of 45 to 65 points and 100 to 120 penalty minutes. Those numbers are solid enough – even on the downside of those ranges – to warrant a pick in a later round.

[Nathan Paetsch, D, Sabres](#) - He played a lot more than coach Lindy Ruff meant for him to last season. That was because he played so well and Ruff couldn't send him back down. Now he's full time and itching for some power play action. However, his minor league and junior stats indicate he has a tough side to him as well. A season with 35 points and 100 penalty minutes would not surprise me in the least.

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[Mike Komisarek, D, Canadiens](#) - The former offensive college star jumped from six points in 2005-06 to 19 last season. Furthermore, he was pointless in nine games to start the year, slowly gaining momentum. With Sheldon Souray in Edmonton and Roman Hamrlik taking his inconsistent offensive game into Montreal...there could be opportunity here. A likely outcome is 25 points and 95 penalty minutes...but he could surprise with 30 and 110.

[Rostislav Klesla, D, Blue Jackets](#) - It was only a few years ago Klesla was regarded as one of the best up and coming rearguards in the league. He's 25, so let's not write him off just yet. He's injury prone, so a breakout would depend on his health, of course, but look for 30 points and 110 penalty minutes, with potential for even more in the points department as Columbus struggles to find a quarterback.

[Colby Armstrong, RW, Penguins](#) - After being drafted in all roto-leagues very early a year ago in anticipation of his playing with Sidney Crosby, Armstrong was a bust. Now the pendulum has swung the other way. I have noticed poolies are now staying away from him in roto-drafts. Keep this in mind though – he has 45-point talent on the third or fourth line and will get 80 penalty minutes. The latter number will grow as he gets feistier and the former number could grow if he ever gets another shot on the top two lines.

[Tuomo Ruutu, C, Blackhawks](#) - Chosen 192nd in the recent DobberHockey “Expert League” draft (disclosure: he was chosen by yours truly), he qualifies as a dark horse. Like Klesla, his performance will depend on his health. But he is entering his fourth NHL season, as well as a contract year. With Chicago's improved supporting cast, he should easily hit 55 points and 100 penalty minutes. If he plays 75 games, he could certainly make those numbers 65 and 120.