By this point in the season, fantasy GM's should be focused on the playoffs. If you're in contention, you want to make sure you're building a team that has the best possible chance to win. To do so, it's important to not just look to get the "best" players, but really focus on your weakest statistics. Last week we took a look at some goal scorers who might be helpful

additions, and this week we'll look at some assist-heavy performers.

To start with, I'll explain some of my data. I started out by taking each player in the Eastern Conference, then measured how many assists per game they have, in addition to how many assists came on the power play. Anyone who had below a 0.1 assists/game was removed and anyone with three or fewer assists was also removed. This left 243 players who had an average of just under 13 total assists, or an average of 0.314 per game.

There are 95 players above this average and of the top 30 in this criterion, 22 players are owned in 80% or more of Yahoo! Leagues. These include players like Giroux (0.81 A/GM), Karlsson (0.796), Malkin (0.75), etc. Below are the eight players who are owned in fewer than 80% of Yahoo! leagues, sorted by assists per game.

Name	Pos	Team	Conf	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPA	SOG	A/Gm	%PPA	Y! % own
P.A. Parenteau	RW	NYI	East	46	9	33	42	-2	39	4	9	97	0.717	27.3%	50%
David Krejci	C	BOS	East	42	10	26	36	0	20	1	8	77	0.619	30.8%	76%
Rich Peverley	C	BOS	East	39	7	24	31	17	16	1	8	78	0.615	33.3%	27%
Patrik Elias	C	NJ	East	46	17	28	45	-3	14	6	7	98	0.609	25.0%	78%
Sergei Gonchar	D	OTT	East	43	2	23	25	1	28	1	9	86	0.535	39.1%	68%
Blake Wheeler	RW	WPG	East	46	9	24	33	7	26	6	3	103	0.522	12.5%	39%
David Desharnais	C	MON	East	48	7	25	32	9	14	1	8	55	0.521	32.0%	10%
Stephen Weiss	C	FLA	East	45	12	23	35	10	38	4	7	89	0.511	30.4%	76%

While it might seem as if the only players that can truly help your squad are the Giroux's and the Malkin's, the players above should be available at a much cheaper price tag. Rich Peverley, for example, is owned in only 27% of Yahoo! leagues, but has an assist per game average higher than players such as Jagr (0.55), Kessel (0.532), and Parise (0.511), not to mention his plus-17

rating.

Now taking a look at all of the players who are at or below the 13-assist average, we can again sort by assists per game and find the top contributors of the “below average” group (excluding Crosby and Pronger, the top two performers in this criteria).

Name	Pos	Team	Conf	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPA	SOG	A/Gm	%PPA	Yl % own
Joni Pitkanen	D	CAR	East	21	3	9	12	-10	8	1	3	42	0.429	33.3%	25%
Mikael Samuelsson	RW	FLA	East	20	2	8	10	1	10	1	2	46	0.400	25.0%	8%
Andy Greene	D	NJ	East	23	0	9	9	0	4	0	1	19	0.391	11.1%	2%
Kyle Turris	C	OTT	East	23	4	9	13	10	19	0	0	47	0.391	0.0%	19%
Jeff Skinner	C	CAR	East	34	13	13	26	-7	18	3	3	114	0.382	23.1%	90%
Scott Gomez	C	MON	East	18	0	6	6	-4	6	0	0	38	0.333	0.0%	3%
Paul Martin	D	PIT	East	40	1	13	14	-5	12	0	3	52	0.325	23.1%	4%
Nathan Gerbe	C	BUF	East	37	4	12	16	1	26	0	1	78	0.324	8.3%	6%
Matt Gilroy	D	TB	East	41	1	13	14	1	10	0	0	54	0.317	0.0%	0%
Cody Franson	D	TOR	East	32	3	10	13	0	16	1	4	42	0.313	40.0%	5%
Kyle Okposo	RW	NYI	East	43	11	13	24	-10	14	2	2	94	0.302	15.4%	12%
Jay Harrison	D	CAR	East	40	7	12	19	-5	34	2	3	90	0.300	25.0%	19%

Looking at the stats this way reveals some interesting fantasy options, again in players who are likely to be undervalued. Players like Pitkanen, Samuelsson, and Greene have missed various amounts of time due to injuries, while Kyle Turris missed time due to a contract dispute. When in the lineup, these players are playing relatively well, despite being owned in 25% or fewer Yahoo! leagues. Kyle Okposo is another player creeping his way up the chart (11 points in his last 12 games) after finally seeing some ice time with John Tavares and Matt Moulson.

Lastly, we’ll take a look at the players who have the highest percentage of their assists coming on the man advantage (PPA/A). While some of these players may not have a ton of assists, they’ll add not only to your assists total but also to your PPA or PPP categories.

Name	Pos	Team	Conf	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPA	SOG	A/Gm	%PPA	Y! % own
Kurtis Foster	D	NJ	East	27	2	7	9	-9	10	0	6	50	0.259	85.7%	6%
Brad Boyes	RW	BUF	East	35	3	8	11	-7	4	2	6	61	0.229	75.0%	26%
Mark Streit	D	NYI	East	46	3	23	26	-17	28	2	15	79	0.500	65.2%	84%
Steve Sullivan	LW	PIT	East	47	8	14	22	-6	14	4	9	84	0.298	64.3%	6%
Brad Richards	C	NYR	East	46	15	17	32	-3	12	3	10	125	0.370	58.8%	97%
Brian Campbell	D	FLA	East	47	3	31	34	-1	4	1	18	77	0.660	58.1%	88%
Justin Faulk	D	CAR	East	34	4	7	11	-9	22	2	4	51	0.206	57.1%	3%
Tim Stapleton	C	WPG	East	37	7	7	14	-7	4	4	4	45	0.189	57.1%	0%
Bryan Little	C	WPG	East	40	11	11	22	1	10	3	6	87	0.275	54.5%	23%
Marc-Andre Gragnani	D	BUF	East	42	1	11	12	10	20	1	6	32	0.262	54.5%	2%

Based on this view of the stats, if you’re going to gun for an assist-heavy player who is owned in 80% or higher Y! leagues, players like Streit, Richards, and Campbell may just be more enticing than others with fewer power play assists.

Depending on what type of move you are looking to make (trade for a superstar or utilize a waiver-wire addition), hopefully the data above was helpful in your decision making.