

Looking to the Playoffs

Written by Tim Lucarelli

Monday, 19 March 2012 15:29 - Last Updated Tuesday, 20 March 2012 11:02



With three weeks remaining in the season, most fantasy H2H leagues begin their playoffs now. For those old school Yahoo leagues that are accustomed to having a two-week final matchup, your playoffs may have begun last week. For everyone who has made the playoffs, it's time to think strategically. Just because a star has been a star for you all season does not mean that he will be a star when you need him most. In this article, I am going to take a look at what happened last season and hopefully provide the groundwork for you to make some difficult decisions.

From March 21 – April 10 last season, most teams played 10 games. I decided to look at

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(plays 90% of Flyers PP ice time since Mar. 1 and is the top D with Pronger out),

Teddy Purcell

(has played 79.1% of TB's PP ice time since Mar. 1),

Michael Del Zotto

(cold lately, but still manning the top PP unit for the second-best team in the league),

Jakub Voracek

(six points in his last eight games and seeing as much PP ice time as Scott Hartnell), and

Steve Sullivan

(skates on Pittsburgh's rarely used PP2 line, but may pick up a few stray PPP as Crosby or Malkin lingers on the ice).

Shots – Getting 30-35 shots out of a player would be huge this late in the year. For a late season addition, 25 or more is a pretty solid effort. From Mar. 1 – 18, Evander Kane leads the league with 5.5 shots per game, but he is likely already taken in your league. Here are some others you might be able to get your hands on – **Andrew Ladd** (24 shots in his last six games; likely taken but maybe still available),

Chad LaRose

(32 shots in his last eight games and skating with Skinner and Jokinen),

Chris Kunitz

(with Crosby back in the lineup, Kunitz has 13 shots in his last three games, including eight vs. Philadelphia yesterday),

Tyler Kennedy

(10 shots in the three games since Crosby has returned), and

Kyle Turris

(21 shots in his last nine games; slowed recently but may be in line for a late-season surge similar to Bobby Butler a year ago).

Penalty minutes – This late in the season, PIM players like Hartnell and Downie might be a little tamer than we have seen in earlier parts of the season. Getting that big 10 minute misconduct may be a lot more difficult than you would expect. If you really want to try to add this presence, some guys who might help you out are **Matt Martin** (out of the playoff race, no holding back),

Travis Hamonic

(ditto Martin, except Hamonic provides offensive potential, scoring six points in his last nine

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games),

P.K. Subban

(young kid, out of the playoff race, short fuse), and

Brandon Prust

(top of the standings, games not as critical).

Which players in each category would you add to this list? Let me know below!