



Welcome back to “An Expert’s Audit” where we take an in-depth look at a reader’s keeper team in the hopes of helping him over the hump toward a championship. If you’re interested in getting an audit done for your own keeper team then you can begin the process by firing off an email to [Dobber](#) about it.

Gareth Bush fell just short of a championship last year, reaching the final but coming up second best. There’s very little to tweak here since there are many pieces already in place. Most of our discussion was around the prospects that he could add to his squad with the three picks he secured (including two in the second round). He plays in a CBS Sportsline 14 team weighted

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Written by Ian Fergusson

Sunday, 12 September 2010 13:59 - Last Updated Monday, 28 February 2011 07:21

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H2H fantasy point dynasty. Yeah, the scoring gets a little confusing but nevertheless here it is.

### Scoring for Categories

+/- - Plus Minus

1 point

A - Assists

1 point

G - Goals

1 point

GAA - Goals Against Average

0.5 points

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GWG - Game Winning Goals

0.5 points

PIM - Penalty Minutes

0.5 points

PPPTS - Power Play Points

1 point

S - Saves

1 point

SHPTS - Short Handed Points

0.5 points

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SO - Shut Outs

0.5 points

SOG - Shots on Goal

0.5 points

SPct - Save Pct

1 point

W - Wins

1 point

Without further ado, let's take a look at the **Giants**.

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C **David Krejci** BOS – some pundits peg him as the C3 in Beantown but I still see Savard getting moved sometime and Bergeron is going to have some injury issues again making it so that Krejci plays a more than key role for the B's. If injuries mount then Krejci will be the biggest insulation of pressure on Tyler Seguin so that they don't have to rely on him too much. Overall, I see this as a huge year for Krejci.

C **Vincent Lecavalier** TB – he was 1st round fantasy draft talent not so long ago but I've seen one projection where he's ranked 85<sup>th</sup> (the 61<sup>st</sup> forward). Wow, that's cold. For the record Dobber put him at 15 amongst forwards on one draft list I saw for him. I think he falls somewhere between those two rankings but I'm also expecting more than the 60-70 points he's put up the last two seasons.

C **Marc Savard** BOS – trade him to my Leafs I say. A lot of guys are shying away from him this season and there's no getting around the potential for his health to be the ruination of his season and his career. Them's the chances you take in fantasy hockey though, when they pay off they often pay off huge ... they also hurt huge when they hurt too though.

C **Paul Stastny** COL – he put in a full season last year after a half season the year before. Dobber lists him as a Band-Aid boy trainee so you just have to be aware that injury stuff is going to hang over his head this season unless he puts in another full season. Last year I kept wondering if he'd ever turn into a superstar or just remain a decent player. The comparison I can't get past is Mikko Koivu, right now that's how I see him and I'd like to change my mind.

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**W Rene Bourque** CAL – a much better option in roto than in fantasy point. In roto you can take better advantage of his PIM and goal totals. I don't mean to say that I don't like him, in fact it's guys like him that I try to roster every season, I just think in this system you'd be better off targeting more offense instead of trying to make up for it with PIMs.

**W J.P. Dumont** NAS – three seasons ago he nearly got to 30 goals and then last season he had pretty close to 1 SOG less per game and the offense in total dropped by a third. His offense has been replaced on that team and I'm worried that he may never be at the forefront of a team's offense again. It may be that you'll need to move this guy for your team's sake.

**W Brian Gionta** MON – 28 goals last year, the most it had been since his monster 48 goal season in '05-06. It should be noted that he took nearly 4 SOGs/game last year. I was a complete non-believer in his abilities last year and even though the assists were low he still managed to show a little bit of something. I don't see the opportunity decreasing for him this year so I suspect similar stats out of him again.

**W Marian Hossa** CHI – count me as a guy expecting a huge increase in offense from him this season. It wasn't so long ago that he was a 90 pt guy instead of this 50-70 pt imitation we've seen since he left Atlanta. The Hawks have changed their offense a lot this summer and that will mean that they give more opportunity to their best players.

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W **Alex Ovechkin** WAS – in a league like this that gives you fantasy points for points and bonus FP for shots then AO becomes easily the best fantasy option in the game. He'll anchor your team for the next decade obviously.

W **Chris Stewart** COL – he probably won't get much time with Stastny as his C so I guess he'll just have console himself with hanging with Matt Duchene. He burst into 64 pts last season and I see that total only going higher this season.

D **Tobias Enstrom** ATL – did you realize that Toby got 50 pts last season? Fantasy folk forget that this kid's got skills. There isn't a lot to brag about up front on the Thrash but I sure do love how their D is shaping up.

D **Kurtis Foster** EDM – 42 pts for him last season in Tampa and now the Oil have brought him in to replace the offense they'll inevitably lose when they deal Sheldon Souray somewhere. He's further down the pecking order for the Oil so I suspect that he won't get anything close to the same production this year as he did last year.

D **Niklas Kronwall** DET – he only played 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of a season last year but if you prorate his offense for a full season he would've come out at 38 pts (if you round up). When I was projecting his stats over the years I thought he'd be a lot more PIMy than he is but I'm perfectly ok with the elite offense he puts up.

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D **Tyler Myers** BUF – you rebuilt your D last season and this kid is the lynchpin to your rebuild. 48 pts out of a rook? Yes please.

G **Miikka Kiprusoff** CAL – he starts a ton and I'm a believer that the Flames are going to win more this season to get into the playoffs. He'll get 70-some starts and he's got a shot at getting back over 40 wins.

BN **Joe Colborne** BOS – I like his future but I don't see him much value (if any) this season. Be patient here though, the B's will move out some bodies and he may just be a beneficiary sooner than I think.

BN **Rich Peverley** ATL – I've written my opinion about this guy previously and I don't expect you guys to remember but I'm just not a believer here. The good news is that the Thrashers are a little short on talent up front so I suspect they'll continue to give him opportunity and ice. If it's me I pray he gets off to a really hot start and then I shop him around the league.



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BN **Alex Steen** STL – it is my belief that Alex is the key for any real development for Patrik Berglund this season. I think a decent comparison is Alex Tanguay as a Flame before he left town. Yes I realize that Tanguay had 81 points as a Flame a few years back. I'll also point out that Steen turns 27 next March if you believe in magic numbers for career years.

BN **Jason Blake** ANA – he has a history as a shooter. Two seasons ago he still had value because he'd shoot the puck a lot but by now even that value has dissipated. I'd peg him for about 40 pts this season ... aren't I the generous one eh?

BN **Chris Kunitz** PIT – I think that 50 pts is a fair estimation for him this season and I just want more out of a guy who gets so much opportunity on Sid's wing.

BN **Ian Laperriere** PHI – I sometimes like to roster this guy in roto because in a good season he can get close to 20 pts and a decent amount of PIMs. In a fantasy point structure though I like him less and I don't think he has too much value for you in this league.

BN **Lee Stempniak** PHX – he's a mirage. He had 14 goals in 18 games for the Yotes and if he gets back to 20 goals this season I'd be amazed.

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BN **Radim Vrbata** PHX – the best seasons of his career have come as a desert dog. Once they determine finally that Stempniak isn't what he thinks he is then they'll give more opportunity to Vrbata. I see an outside chance at 30 goals.

BN **Jaroslav Spacek** MON – Dobber pegs him for 27 pts this season and I think that's generous but I completely agree that he's a decent bench option in a fantasy league. He's a good support player for the Habs and he still has some value for your team.

BN **Antero Niitymaki** SJ – the Sharks say they're confident in Niity but they also went out and got Niemi. If you ask me Niity will be at the end of the bench for 60% of the games for the Sharks this season. He'll be an ok option as a G3 this season but you're not going to want to rely on him much.

BN **Cam Ward** CAR – this is the gem of your bench. I'm expecting some big numbers out of him this season with close to 70 starts and just shy of 40 wins. He'll be very valuable for you this season.

I'm most worried about the options you have on your bench but your main lineup is more than solid. If some of your bench guys can step up and have the sort of solid year they had last year (I'm looking at you Vrbata, Stempniak, and Peverley) then you'll be ok. If they don't though ...

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you'll have some worries this year.

### Prospect Draft

You had the 10<sup>th</sup>, the 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> picks in the draft and we began to discuss who could possibly fall to you at the 10 slot out of all the kids and unclaimed vets who were available to you. In a perfect world you wanted to get Jamie McBain but odds were that he was going to be claimed early, and as it turned out he went 4<sup>th</sup> overall (which we both thought was too early).

1<sup>st</sup> pick – Tyler Seguin – not what I would've done. I just believe that he's the 2<sup>nd</sup> best talent available.

2<sup>nd</sup> pick – Taylor Hall – in my books there's a large dropoff in talent after him.

3<sup>rd</sup> pick – Jeff Skinner – I'm not sure he helps a fantasy team all that much this season but I'd be happy to be wrong on that one.

4<sup>th</sup> pick – Jeff McBain – he would've been the perfect at the bottom of your D roster and I expect some huge things from him as soon as this season.

5<sup>th</sup> pick – Nino Niederreiter – this would've been my pick at 4 but nobody asked me about it.

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6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> picks – Jiri Hudler and Nikolai Zherdev – this was a bit of a gamble because I'd still be looking for youngsters at this stage. There's certainly better short term value here but also both these guys have shown that they'll bail on a situation that isn't to their liking.

8<sup>th</sup> pick – Tyler Ennis – there's no way he should've fallen this far. We both had him ranked at 3.

9<sup>th</sup> pick – Brett Connolly – another name that shouldn't have dropped this far.

10<sup>th</sup> pick – well, you were looking for a young D to solidify the bottom of your roster for a long time and McBain hadn't made it nearly as far as we were hoping he would. In the end you went with a kid who is ready for NHL play and who quite frankly should've been on a team already anyway. Your first pick of the draft was **Oliver Ekman-Larsson**. I thought it was a phenomenal pick who is going to really solidify your back end for a lot of years.

17<sup>th</sup> pick – **Zach Boychuk** – I freaking LOVE this pick here. Dobber is projecting him in the guide (yeah, if you're reading this you really should pony up and get a guide) as the 2<sup>nd</sup>

line center in Carolina getting plenty of PP2 time. I figure he'll have to battle Brandon Sutter for ice time but there are also some brittle bodies on the Canes and there could be plenty of opportunity for more ice once guys start going down to injury.

19<sup>th</sup> pick – **Corey Crawford** – the Hawks let Niemi go and they sent Huet to Europe and then they signed old man Turco. If you ask me they intend to give Crawford significant starts this season so that they don't have to run old man Turco into the ice. I'd certainly take 35 starts for the Stanley Cup champs as a G4 option. This is a great pick.

## Trade Options

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We were in discussions to try and land Zach Parise all month but that deal never materialized. I was suggesting that Chris Stewart, Paul Stastny and Jaroslav Spacek for Zach Parise and Dmitry Kulikov was not too high a price to pay ... and you disagreed. Parise is a pure goal scorer type that is always great to have on a roster and I truly believe that Kulikov is going to explode for offense this season. However, in a fantasy point system like yours it doesn't get you further to target goals when points get you moving in the same direction. I'm fine with the idea that the trade died a painful death and I completely understand that I'm not NEARLY invested in the future of these guys like you are. For me, this is a game but for guys like you, your bank account gets involved and that easily trumps my "hey, wouldn't this be cool" ideas.

We did manage to get a minor deal done this month. We moved **Chris Kunitz and a 2011 4<sup>th</sup> round prospect pick for the 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **overall 2010 prospect pick**

. That pick in this year's draft was used on

### **Kyle Beach**

. Beach was a serious consideration to be selected with your 19<sup>th</sup>

pick in the draft but it was decided that you needed to go a different direction. At least this way you get a guy you wanted to pick and the price wasn't TOO steep. Don't get me wrong, losing Kunitz was a steep price here, particularly if he produces significantly amongst the top 6 forwards in Pittsburgh but longterm you really help your D depth and you shed a guy who's on the downside if you ask me.

## Conclusions

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All the “kid” talk this month has been fun. In the end you were able to add most of the names that you were targeting before the prospect draft began. In total you added Oliver Ekman-Larsson, Zach Boychuk, Corey Crawford and Kyle Beach. LOVE. IT.

In general I'm a bit concerned about your bench but not enough to get bent out of shape over it. With a little careful shopping you can move guys out at the right time and get some good value out of it.

Well, all the best to you Gareth. I think you're in good shape to make another run this season. Good luck to you.