The next week or two is probably one of the last times to cash in on any schedule imbalance before it becomes statistically insignificant. By Christmas the Rangers will have played 37 games, the Hurricanes, Ducks, Coyotes, Capitals, and Canucks will have played 35. On the other end the Senators, Oilers and Devils will have only played 32 games and the Blackhawks bringing up the rear with only 31. Those few games might just mean enough difference to turn what appears like an even deal into an advantage for you. On Christmas morning compare two 25 point players, one from the Ranger and one from the Blackhawk. They may look close but over the course of 82 games you are looking at a 55 point player versus a 66 point player.

Injury Replacements

Looking at a team's schedule may help your chances of finding a good injury replacement. Here are some of the high and low ratings for teams over a two, three and four week period starting December 12. The rating is shown in brackets.

Two weeks

High ratings: Thrashers (7.45), Devils (7.45)

Low ratings: Lightning (4.09), Predators (4.00)

Three weeks

High ratings: Thrashers (11.75), Devils (11.05)

Low ratings: Predators (7.89), Rangers (7.82), Ducks (7.70)

Four weeks

High ratings: Thrashers (15.66), Devils (15.56)

Low ratings: Rangers (10.77), Sharks (10.75), Blues (10.44)

Best Bets
Washington 4.20 - four games OTT, MTL, NYI, STL
New Jersey 4.19 - four games NYR, BUF, TOR, BUF
Dallas 4.00 - four games DET, NAS, PHX, CBJ
San Jose 4.00 - four games STL, LA, CBJ, DET
Colorado 4.00 - four games CHI, DET, PHI, TB
Steer Clear
Nashville 1.90 - two games DAL, PHX
Anaheim 2.00 - two games MIN, NYR
NY Islanders 2.00 - two games CBJ, WAS
Pittsburgh 2.09 - two games PHI, ATL
Tampa Bay 2.10 - two games OTT, COL

Best Bets
New Jersey 4.40 - four games BUF, TOR, BUF, OTT
Minnesota 4.11 - four games LA, ANA, CGY, NYI
San Jose 4.00 - four games STL, LA, CBJ, DET
Los Angeles 3.88 - four games MIN, SJ, NYR, BUF
Columbus 3.80 - four games NYI, CHI, SJ, DAL
Steer Clear
Toronto 1.90 - two games NJ, BOS
Nashville 1.90 - two games DAL, PHX
Florida 1.90 - two games VAN, CAR
Pittsburgh 2.09 - two games PHI, ATL
Tampa Bay 2.10 - two games OTT, COL

Best Bets
Minnesota 3.92 - four games ANA, CGY, NYI, STL
Chicago 3.90 - four games CBJ, EDM, CGY, EDM
San Jose 3.89 - four games LA, CBJ, DET, NYR
Los Angeles 3.69 - four games SJ, NYR, BUF, DET
Columbus 3.60 - four games CHI, SJ, DAL, PHX
Steer Clear

Florida 1.90 - two games VAN, CAR
Nashville 2.11 - two games PHX, NYI
Tampa Bay 2.19 - two games COL, ATL
Pittsburgh 2.30 - two games ATL, TOR
Boston 2.31 - two games TOR, CAR

Best Bets
Montreal 4.41 - four games CAR, PHI, BUF, CAR
New Jersey 4.30 - four games TOR, BUF, OTT, PHI
St. Louis 4.10 - four games CGY, WAS, MIN, BOS
Carolina 4.00 - four games MTL, FLA, BOS, MTL
Philadelphia 3.91 - four games COL, MTL, WAS, NJ
Steer Clear
Anaheim 1.99 - two games NYR, EDM
Florida 2.10 - two games CAR, COL
Nashville 2.11 - two games PHX, NYI
Tampa Bay 2.19 - two games COL, ATL
Vancouver 2.21 - two games EDM, CHI

Best Bets
Atlanta 4.41 - four games OTT, PIT, TB, TOR
New Jersey 4.30 - four games TOR, BUF, OTT, PHI
Buffalo 4.10 - four games NJ, LA, MTL, PIT
Montreal 4.41 - four games CAR, PHI, BUF, CAR
St. Louis 4.10 - four games CGY, WAS, MIN, BOS
Steer Clear
Florida 2.10 - two games CAR, COL
Detroit 2.10 - two games SJ, LA
Nashville 2.11 - two games PHX, NYI
Tampa Bay 2.19 - two games COL, ATL
Columbus 2.65 - three games SJ, DAL, PHX

Best Bets
Pittsburgh 4.60 - four games ATL, TOR, BUF, TB
Atlanta 4.41 - four games PIT, TB, TOR, NYI
Minnesota 4.31 - four games CGY, NYI, STL, CAR
New Jersey 4.30 - four games BUF, OTT, PHI, BOS
Boston 4.12 - four games TOR, CAR, STL, NJ
Steer Clear
Chicago 1.81 - two road games CGY, VAN
Edmonton 2.75 - three games VAN, ANA, PHX
Ottawa 2.75 - three games NJ, DAL, PHI
Calgary 2.84 - three games MIN, CHI, ANA
Anaheim 2.85 - three games EDM, VAN, CGY

Best Bets

Pittsburgh 4.60 - four games ATL, TOR, BUF, TB
Atlanta 4.41 - four games PIT, TB, TOR, NYI
Boston 4.12 - four games TOR, CAR, STL, NJ
Phoenix 4.10 - four games NAS, CBJ, EDM, COL
Philadelphia 4.01 - four games MTL, WAS, NJ, OTT

Steer Clear

Chicago 1.81 - two road games CGY, VAN
NY Rangers 1.81 - two games SJ, WAS
Calgary 1.89 - two games CHI, ANA
Edmonton 1.89 - two games ANA, PHX
Vancouver 2.65 - three games CHI, ANA, SJ

Best Bets

Atlanta 3.46 - three games TB, TOR, NYI
Pittsburgh 3.46 - three games TOR, BUF, TB
Minnesota 3.26 - three games NYI, STL, CAR
New Jersey 3.26 - three games OTT, PHI, BOS
NY Islanders 3.16 - three games MIN, NAS, ATL

Steer Clear

Chicago 1.81 - two games CGY, VAN
Washington 1.81 - two games PHI, NYR
NY Rangers 1.18 - two games SJ, WAS
Calgary 1.89 - two games CHI, NJ
Edmonton 1.89 - two games ANA, PHX

Best Bets

Atlanta 4.62 - four game TB, TOR, NYI, CAR
Pittsburgh 4.32 - four games TOR, BUF, TB, NJ
Phoenix 4.19 - four games CBJ, EDM, COL, LA
Philadelphia 4.01 - four games WAS, NJ, OTT, CHI
Carolina 3.99 - four games BOS, MTL, MIN, ATL

Steer Clear

Calgary 0.84 - ONE game ANA
Anaheim 1.81 - two games VAN, CGY
NY Rangers 1.81 - two games SJ, WAS
San Jose 1.89 - two games NYR, VAN
Ottawa 1.90 - two games DAL, PHI

Best Bets

Florida 4.50 - four games COL, NAS, TB, TB
Phoenix 4.40 - four games EDM, COL, LA, LA
Pittsburgh 4.21 - four games BUF, TB, NJ, MTL
Carolina 4.09 - four games MTL, MIN, ATL, BOS
Philadelphia 3.91 - four games NJ, OTT, CHI, CBJ

Steer Clear

Chicago 1.05 - ONE games PHI

Minnesota 1.16 - ONE game CAR
Dallas 1.89 - two games TOR, ANA
Nashville 1.90 - two games FLA, DET
San Jose 1.90 - two games VAN, STL