

Santa in a Flames Jersey

For the record it appears that Santa Clause is a Calgary Flames fan this year. Christmas finds them in the middle of a 5 games home stand stretches out over more than two week. If they didn't play the Ducks on December 23 they would have 7 full days off right over Christmas. So Flames fans have no excuses not to spend lots of times with the in-laws. Sorry.

Goals Against Numbers

There are two basic assumptions behind the Looking Ahead numbers in the chart and for injury replacement. First, skaters at home score more points than skaters on the road. And second playing teams that allow most goals against is better for your skaters. In general this means that playing bad teams is good and playing good teams is bad. This week when I updated each team's goals-against rating I thought it would be interesting to point out the few anomalies. Detroit and Philadelphia are both in the top half of the standings but on average allow more goals against then most teams. At the other end Ottawa have been losing a lot of games but they have been doing it with a relatively strong goals against average. So until things turn around this season has shown that you should rather have your skaters player Detroit then Ottawa. Doesn't work that way for your goalies unfortunately.

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 19. The rating is shown in brackets.

Two weeks

High ratings: Maple Leafs (7.75), Thrashers (7.74)

A Roto-Look Ahead - Week 12

Written by Tom Reeve Friday, 19 December 2008 04:18 - Last Updated Friday, 19 December 2008 14:26

Low ratings: Stars (4.73), Flames (4.73), Rangers (4.02)

Three weeks

High ratings: Thrashers (11.64), Devils (11.23),

Low ratings: Sharks (7.05), Rangers (6.96)

Four weeks

High ratings: Canucks (14.09), Penguins (13.93), Devils (13.89)

Low ratings: Flames (10.55), Rangers (9.91)

Best Bets

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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

Best Bets

Toronto 4.49 - four games ATL, DAL, NYI, WAS Atlanta 4.40 - four games TOR, NYI, CAR, BOS Phoenix 4.40 - four games EDM, COL, LA, LA Pittsburgh 4.21 - four games BUF, TB, NJ, MTL Anaheim 3.99 - four road games VAN, CGY, DAL, STL

Steer Clear

Montreal 0.95 - ONE games PIT

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Calgary 1.89 - two games ANA, OTT Chicago 1.92 - two games PHI, MIN San Jose 1.99 - two games VAN, STL NY Rangers 2.00 - two games WAS, NJ

Best Bets

NY Islanders 4.33 - four games ATL, TOR, BUF, NYR Nashville 4.01 - four games FLA, DET, EDM, COL Los Angeles 4.00 - four games CBJ, PHX, PHX, CBJ Florida 4.20 - four games NAS, TB, TB, MTL Toronto 3.35 - three games DAL, NYI, WAS

Steer Clear

Montreal 1.90 - two games PIT, FLA Edmonton 1.91 - two games VAN, NAS Chicago 1.92 - two games PHI, MIN Buffalo 2.21 - two games WAS, NYI Calgary 2.73 - three games ANA, OTT, MIN

Best Bets

Toronto 3.35 - three games NYI, WAS, ATL Buffalo 3.26 - three games WAS, NYI, WAS Washington 3.26 - three games BUF, TOR, BUF Vancouver 3.15 - three games EDM, OTT, PHI Florida 3.15 - three games TB, TB, MTL

Steer Clear

Calgary 1.79 - two games OTT, MIN Dallas 1.79 - two games ANA, SJ Minnesota 1.90 - two games CHI, CGY Carolina 1.98 - two games ATL, BOS Phoenix 2.00 - two games LA, LA

Best Bets

Florida 4.29 - four games TB, TB, MTL, NYI Atlanta 4.18 - four games CAR, BOS, TOR, CAR NY Islanders 4.13 - four games TOR, BUF, NYR, FLA New Jersey 4.09 - four games PIT, NYR, STL, DAL Edmonton 3.80 - four games VAN, NAS, OTT, CGY Steer Clear

NY Rangers 2.21 - two games NJ, NYI
Pittsburgh 2.64 - three games NJ, MTL, STL
Philadelphia 2.66 - three road games CHI, CBJ, VAN
St. Louis 2.73 - three home games SJ, ANA, NJ
Dallas 2.73 - three home games ANA, SJ, NJ

Best Bets

Washington 4.42 - four games BUF, TOR, BUF, TB

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Buffalo 4.40 - four games WAS, NYI, WAS, TOR Toronto 4.40 - four games NYI, WAS, ATL, BUF Florida 4.29 - four games TB, TB, MTL, NYI Boston 4.19 - four games CAR, ATL, PIT, PIT **Steer Clear**

NY Rangers 2.21 - two games NJ, NYI Philadelphia 2.66 - three road games CHI, CBJ, VAN St. Louis 2.73 - three home games SJ, ANA, NJ Dallas 2.73 - three home games ANA, SJ, NJ

Minnesota 2.74 - three games CHI, CGY, SJ

Best Bets

Anaheim 4.39 - four games DAL, STL, CBJ, PHI Colorado 4.21 - four games DET, NAS, PHX, CBJ Vancouver 4.19 - four games OTT, PHI, NAS, ATL Boston 4.19 - four games CAR, ATL, PIT, PIT New Jersey 3.99 - four games NYR, STL, DAL, MTL Steer Clear

Los Angeles 2.00 - two games PHX, CBJ NY Rangers 2.21 - two games NJ, NYI Pittsburgh 2.55 - three games MTL, BOS, BOS Philadelphia 2.66 - three games CBJ, VAN, ANA Dallas 2.73 - three games ANA, SJ, NJ

Best Bets

Washington 4.31 - four games TOR, BUF, TB, NYR Edmonton 4.21 - four games NAS, OTT, CGY, DAL Toronto 4.21 - four games WAS, ATL, BUF, OTT Vancouver 4.19 - four games OTT, PHI, NAS, ATL Boston 4.19 - four games ATL, PIT, PIT, BUF Steer Clear

Los Angeles 2.21 - two games CBJ, PHI NY Rangers 2.21 - two games NYI, WAS Phoenix 2.31 - two games COL, NYI Detroit 2.56 - three games CHI, CHI, MIN Pittsburgh 2.65 - three games BOS, BOS, FLA