It is over the next week or two that we will start to see everyone's schedule even out a bit and find out whether some of these supposed pretenders are actually contenders.

The New Jersey Devils are one of the supposed contenders that are off to a slow start, 2-4-1 through Thursday's game vs. Montreal. Although they are a "Best Bet" for five of the next eight days, they have a mean six game road trip after this Saturday's home game against the Sabres. They play the Rangers, San Jose, Anaheim, LA, Vancouver and Chicago.

The weak link of that group appears to be the Ducks; but remember, they are 2-0-1 at home while scoring 12 goals. However, the Ducks have scored only six goals in five games on the road (three came vs. Philly on Thursday). This is definitely not a new occurrence for the Ducks.

In 2009-10, they were 25-11-5 at the Honda Centre while scoring 141 goals in those games, good for third in the League. On the road was a much different story; 14-21-6 and only 92 goals for, which put them 27th.

Easily the most popular team on the waiver wire so far in my leagues has been Long Island. But the league's third highest scoring team through Thursday (that is not a typo) is in for a test over the next while; they play eight of their next ten away from home. They only had 11 wins on the road last season, second least in the NHL.

As I noted last week, the Kings are the top ranked team on the Friday-Thursday and Saturday-Friday schedules, but also play all four of their games on the road over that stretch .

Last week I warned you about a slow stretch for the Red Wings, this week it is the Canucks who, after a rematch against the Wild on Friday only play one game between Saturday, October 23 and Sunday, October 31. Don't fret though; they come back strong in November with eight games before the 16th of the month.

Speaking of those Red Wings, stay strong owners. After yet another four day break this week , they play five games in ten days including a Western swing against
Calgary,
Edmonton
and

Vancouver
. Think of the positives though; they are in the midst of a four game home-stand as we speak and actually make it to the “Best Bet” section by Halloween.

Although Philly has played their last three at home, they still have five of their next seven games on Broad Street, so keep that in mind if you find yourself getting frustrated with some of their slow starters.

Best Bets
LA 4.25 - four games @COL, @MIN, @CHI, @DAL
Calgary 4.15 - four games @CBJ, SJ, EDM, COL
Phoenix 4.10 - four games CAR, @MON, @OTT, @DET
Columbus 3.88 - four games CAL, @CHI, PHI, EDM
Ottawa 3.66 - four games @BUF, MON, PHO, FLA
Steer Clear
Detroit 1.85 - two games ANA, PHO
Carolina 1.86 - two games @PHO, WAS
Vancouver 1.95 - two games MIN, COL
Boston 1.98 - two games NYR, TOR
NYI 2.11 - two games @FLA, @MON
o Friday October 29, 2010
Best Bets
LA 4.25 - four games @COL, @MIN, @CHI, @DAL
Philadelphia 4.17 - four games TOR, @CBJ, BUF, @PIT
Montreal 4.16 - four games @OTT, PHO, NYI, @NYI
Phoenix 4.10 - four games CAR, @MON, @OTT, @DET
Edmonton 3.93 - four games SJ, @CAL, @CBJ, @CHI
Steer Clear
Vancouver 0.95 - one game COL
Tampa Bay 1.82 - two games NAS, PIT
Minnesota 1.84 - two games LA, WAS

Detroit 1.85 - two games ANA, PHO
St. Louis 1.91 - two games PIT, @NAS

Saturday October 30, 2010

Best Bets

Philadelphia 4.16 - four games @CBJ, BUF, @PIT, NYI
Phoenix 4.11 - four games @MON, @OTT, @DET, TB
Montreal 4.16 - four games PHO, NYI, @NYI, FLA
NYR 4.07 - four games NJ, ATL, CAR, @TOR
New Jersey - four games @NYR, @SJ, @ANA, @LA

Steer Clear

Vancouver 0.95 - one game COL
Detroit 1.68 - two games PHO, NAS
St. Louis 1.99 - two games @NAS, ATL
Boston 2.16 - two games TOR, @OTT
Ottawa 2.64 - three games PHO, FLA, BOS

Sunday October 31, 2010

Best Bets

Philadelphia 4.16 - four games @CBJ, BUF, @PIT, NYI
Phoenix 4.11 - four games @MON, @OTT, @DET, TB
Montreal 4.09 - four games PHO, NYI, @NYI, FLA
LA 3.98 - four games @MIN, @CHI, @DAL, NJ
Buffalo 3.31 - three games @PHI, @ATL, @DAL

Steer Clear

Vancouver 0.95 - one game COL
Detroit 1.68 - two games PHO, NAS
San Jose 1.80 - two games NJ, ANA
Tampa Bay 1.88 - two games PIT, @PHO
Nashville 1.88 - two games STL, @DET

Monday November 1, 2010

Best Bets

NYR 4.14 - four games ATL, CAR, @TOR, CHI
Chicago 4.14 - four games LA, EDM, @MIN, @NYR
NJ 4.09 - four games @SJ, @ANA, @LA, VAN
Philadelphia 4.03 - four games BUF, @PIT, NYI, CAR
Carolina 3.91 - four games WAS, @NYR, PIT, @PHI

Steer Clear

Vancouver 1.73 - two games COL, NJ
Detroit 1.68 - two games PHO, NAS
Minnesota 1.80 - two games WAS, CHI
San Jose 1.80 - two games NJ, ANA

Tampa Bay 1.88 - two games PIT, @PHO

[redacted]7 to Tuesday November 2, 2010

Best Bets

Montreal 4.43 - four games NYI, @NYI, FLA, @CBJ
NYR 4.14 - four games ATL, CAR, @TOR, CHI
Chicago 4.14 - four games LA, EDM, @MIN, @NYR
NJ 4.09 - four games @SJ, @ANA, @LA, @VAN
Carolina 3.91 - four games WAS, @NYR, PIT, @PHI

Steer Clear

Dallas 1.74 - two games LA, BUF
Detroit 1.68 - two games PHO, NAS
Anaheim 1.75 - two games NJ, @SJ
Tampa Bay 1.88 - two games PIT, @PHO
Nashville 1.88 - two games STL, @DET

[redacted]to Wednesday November 3, 2010

Best Bets

NJ 4.06 - four games @ANA, @LA, @VAN, @CHI
Carolina 4.04 - four games @NYR, PIT, @PHI, NYI
Chicago 4.03 - four games EDM, @MIN, @NYR, NJ
Toronto 3.81 - four games @BOS, NYR, OTT, @WAS
Montreal 3.35 - three games @NYI, FLA, @CBJ

Steer Clear

LA 1.92 - two games @DAL, NJ
Colorado 2.00 - two games @CAL, CBJ
Tampa Bay 2.04 - two games @PHO, @ANA
St. Louis 2.06 - two games @NAS, ATL
Vancouver 2.06 - two games NJ, @EDM

[redacted]Thursday November 4, 2010

Best Bets

NYI 4.15 - four games MON, @PHI, @CAR, @OTT
NYR 4.11 - four games CAR, @TOR, CHI, @PHI
Philadelphia 4.08 - four games @PIT, NYI, CAR, NYR
NJ 4.06 - four games @ANA, @LA, @VAN, @CHI
Carolina 4.04 - four games @NYR, PIT, @PHI, NYI

Steer Clear

Minnesota 1.73 - two games CHI, SJ
Dallas 1.81 - two games BUF, PIT
Calgary 1.83 - two games WAS, DET
LA 1.84 - two games NJ, TB
Edmonton 1.85 - @CHI, VAN

o Friday November 5, 2010

Best Bets

Carolina 4.16 - four games PIT, @PHI, NYI, @FLA
NYR 3.93 - four games @TOR, CHI, @PHI, @NJ
NJ 3.82 - four games @LA, @VAN, @CHI, NYR
Pittsburgh 3.43 - three games @CAR, @DAL, @ANA
NYI 3.24 - three games @PHI, @CAR, @OTT

Steer Clear

Edmonton 1.79 - VAN, DET
LA 1.84 - two games NJ, TB
Nashville 1.88 - two games @DET, @PHO
St. Louis 1.92 - two games ATL, SJ
Colorado 1.96 - two games CBJ, VAN

Saturday November 6, 2010

Best Bets

Carolina 4.19 - four games @PHI, NYI, @FLA, FLA
Vancouver 3.99 - four games NJ, @EDM, @COL, DET
Ottawa 3.29 - three games @TOR, NYI, @MON
Florida 3.24 - three games ATL, CAR, @CAR
Detroit 3.23 - three games @CAL, @VAN, @EDM

Steer Clear

St. Louis 1.78 - two games SJ, @BOS
Edmonton 1.79 - VAN, DET
Nashville 1.90 - two games @PHO, @LA
Washinton 1.90 - two games TOR, BOS
Colorado 1.96 - two games VAN, DAL