



# Calgary Puck Hockey League

**2011 2012**



# WRITERS

BJ BLANCHARD

PATRICK FAITH

Nick Fleehart

AARON HESLA

VICTOR LOUGH

RAVI PATEL

DAVE PENNEY

ROB PITTMAN

SANDRA PRUSINA

JACK SREEKUMAR

MIKE WALSH

DOUG WHALEN

# INTRODUCTION



## 10 years of Calgary Puck Hockey League

BY: JOE SCHUM

Another season of CPHL is upon us and this marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this amazing league. A lot of names have come and gone over the years, teams have changed, former powerhouses are now mired in mediocrity and former pushovers are now elite teams but the dedication to this league has remained the same by its commissioners and its general managers.

Congratulations to the Montreal Canadiens for winning consecutive Stanley Cups in the CPHL.

We also welcome back the Winnipeg Jets.

Now onto the 10<sup>th</sup> season of the CPHL that sees the most detailed sim to date looking to play more evil tricks on some of the top teams while some not-so-good team hope to establish sim chemistry and enjoy a successful season. This edition has a team-by-team analysis of all 30 teams including detailed positional analysis and their possible outcome in this season.

Also included is a history of the CPHL, written by Dave Penney who looks at the birth of the CPHL and its original creators. A very nice read.

This is the second edition of this preview; last one was done 2 years ago and received much appreciation. Hopefully this one is also well liked.

The predications are always a good read therefore we decided to add as much of this feature as possible. There is a standings prediction, awards prediction and the odds of winning the cup and being the worst team in the CPHL regular season. So predict the winner and the worst in order to receive a cap reward for next season.

My favorite is the eye candy; there are some nice looking girls in the NHL arenas.

There are some interesting questions and even more interesting answers in the interviews Mr. Lough conducted.

Then we finally cap it off with some Stanley Cup predictions with the Flyers and the Ducks receiving most attention. As the Flyers GM, the pressure is definitely on this year, having the biggest payroll CPHL has ever seen creates some huge expectations. The Ducks are trying to forget a miserable 10-11 season, which saw them miss the playoffs despite having some elite talent.

So enjoy this preview and please appreciate the work that was put into making this happen. Nearly half the league was directly involved in it and the other half was indirectly involved. So thanks to all who volunteered to make this happen.

**BY: BJ BLANCHARD**

With another CPHL season just around the corner, I have been asked to offer my thoughts on the league. I have always had an open and direct approach with respect to the goings on of the CPHL; some GMs appreciate this, some don't. With that in mind, every GM who takes the time to read the forum is aware of my position and thoughts most matters; therefore, instead of tackling previously debated topics, I have instead decided to provide my thoughts with respect to certain GMs and topics that I have yet to communicate openly.

Since joining the CPHL I subsequently joined another sim league (OHL) and came to realize that the CPHL is a top notch league with a strong group of active GMs who actually care about the wellbeing of the league. The amount of effort that is put into this league by Grant, Jeff, and many of the GMs is fantastic and the rest of the GMs should aspire to that. I have to admit that until I experienced another league, I took the CPHL for granted. I am no longer a GM in the OHL as it was severely lacking the professional touches we enjoy in the CPHL.

I haven't brought this forward or discussed it with any other GM but perhaps we could implement a poll every week leading up to the season requesting the opinion of GMs concerning certain topics; ie. certain rules, roster limits, cap, UFA age, grids, cheese, ratings, etc. My position is that these threads remain closed to comments and are only open to voting, I find that in discussion too many GMs are concerned about rocking the boat and stay on the fence; a closed and anonymous poll might be more telling. Not looking for anything to change; I think it might be an interesting social experiment to see where the majority truly lies on different topics.

And now some views and observations with respect to several of my fellow GMs:

**Goffie:** Without a doubt since I've been a GM, my perception is that he makes the best first offers when negotiating and there usually isn't a lot that has to change. As much as I love a long negotiation, Goffie's offers are usually a ray of sunshine when I can't get anything done.

**Joe:** Great competitor who often takes initiative in league projects and takes pride in offering something to the league other than simply filling a spot. He prefers an active league and leads by example.

**Ravi:** Negotiating with him can often be like negotiating with an individual with a bi-polar disorder, one second it's on, the next it's gone. Despite that he is a fantastic guy to chat with about absolutely any topic and takes the time to really listen if you have something going on that weighs heavy on your mind.

**Doug:** He is an interesting character who is active and does a ton for the league. Although not everyone has time to offer the league what Doug does, more GMs should aspire to his level of commitment rather than doing the minimum.

**Pat:** He's like a big brother...who isn't tough enough to push you around. He seems to genuinely care about other GMs and is always trying to make sure they are on the right track and aren't getting themselves in trouble. Possibly a subconscious trait, he often plays the devils' advocate.

**Victor:** A very rational and easy going fellow who is fun to negotiate with and is one of the GMs who really makes the being part of the CPHL community a really enjoyable experience.

**Aaron:** He is a respectable gentleman who despite having an agreeable character is an absolute competitor. I'd also like to thank him for all the baby advice!

**Steve:** He is a down to earth and friendly character, but Steve, stop telling me you aren't going to let me over-pay for your guys, I don't offer overpayments to anyone else!

I'm excited for the upcoming season and wish everyone the best of luck!

**BY: JACK SREEKUMAR**

My experience of CPHL is only half a season but I believe I can give perspective from my experience which can help the league understand it from a perspective of a new GM. When I got into the league, I thought there was a big learning curve. In fact going into my second season I am still not certain on some player values. I really think the league benefits from having been running for a lot of years. It provides stability in management, GMs, rules and timelines. Having been part of a struggling league due inability of leadership, I certainly can appreciate the job all the GMs and leaders do.

My thoughts on the preview was good at the beginning but then I started writing MJK's team and I was not sure why I was typing away words which mean nothing in 2 weeks when there are all new faces on that team. I think it is good for the league but I found myself not enjoying the preview towards the end and only due to my personal reasons and time schedule. I think this league is very easy to have fun in and lose lots of time into. There is one thing that can improve the league better. I have talked to Cheese and a bunch of other GMs about the layout of the league. I

know the website for CPHL is all automatic, like the trade values the technology is a moving target and compared to what else is offered out there CPHL is behind. I know there are issues with the technical aspect. I am certain as a group of 30 guys that love this league or will (for the new guys), if we can improve that aspect of the league I see CPHL being the best of the best and standing the test of time. Now I know you think – oh who cares about the visual aspects. It will make it easier for MJK and BJ to make 30 trades a week because you don't need to open 16 tabs and look everything up. It will all be "one click away". I am having fun in CPHL, I look forward to being here for a long time.

**BY: SANDRA PRUSINA**

I've been a member of the CPHL for many years. I can truthfully say, I've never seen such a creative group of GMs. I think it's a true testament to everyone's love for the game of hockey. It's not just during the regular season, but when the draft rolls around, I'm constantly impressed with how much work is done by each and every GM.

Something else I've noticed in the last few seasons is the pride that GMs take with their teams. Long gone are the days of trades just for the sake of trading. Movement is done to better a club and not just because a GM is bored.

GMs are also creative when it comes to getting involved on the message board. It really allows everyone's personality to come out and given that there are 30 very different people in charge, for me personally, it makes it a lot of fun. Over the past few season, I've enjoyed the videos, interviews, special writeups and polls. It almost makes the CPHL feel like something more than just a sim league.

On a personal note, I've really enjoyed my time as a CPHL GM. I've had the chance to spend some time with GMs, past and present. I've worked with a few of you, I've been to hockey games with some GMs, played sports and become friends with others. It's been a very special experience and it's certainly something I wouldn't trade.

**BY: AARON HESLA**

I am lucky to have been part of the CPHL since 2005. I have seen many GMs come and go (and in some cases come back again) over the years, and

honestly I feel we have a very strong group of GMs right now.

I think it is a good thing that there are all different kinds of GMs in the league. There are those that like to deal lots and there are those that like to sit on their roster and watch it play out. These differences make the league strong. As a GM that deals lots it can at times be frustrating to watch a team be inactive when they can make a few moves and improve their roster. However, we have to remember that everyone does not play the game for the same reason. If every team in the league were aggressive dealers, I do not think it would be as fun.

My hope with this preview is that teams take the advice of other GMs to heart and try and use that to improve their team. At the very least we need to acknowledge the hard work of Joe in putting this thing together.

**BY: PATRICK FAITH**

This year will probably show the same powerhouses at the top but there will be some surprises. The question asked each year by most GMs is do I pick a team with great sim chemistry or NHL talent that does not show a lot of sim chemistry. It is nice to have a good mix of teams that go for NHL talent or sim chemistry.

There is going to be a few surprises that make the playoffs. By looking at the standings in the past few years, it shows the teams that seem to trade the most are the ones that are typically the top teams. Ducks, Wild, Pens, Flyers, Habs, Caps are all known to be big traders and it showed in the standings. Teams should always be looking at their roster and seeing who is not pulling their weight. If it is your superstar player, trade him for another teams struggling star. I am looking forward to testing out a few line combos and that determines who will be the first on the chopping block.

My sleeper team in the West will be the Detroit Red Wings. They have some nice high end talent and a very deep D-core. Their bottom 6 is not great but by looking at the previous few seasons, I am not sure that really affects anything.

My sleeper team in the East will be the Ottawa Senators. They have a nice mix of skill, grit and speed and new GM Flickered Flame is not afraid to put his stamp on this team.

# Anaheim Ducks



**GM: Ravi Patel**

## Left Wing

The Ducks traded the best player in the world, Sidney Crosby, in order to upgrade on the left wing. In the Crosby deal to Minnesota the Ducks were able to get their hands on young superstar Steven Stamkos. Stamkos scored 36 goals last year and that number will go up this year. Drew Stafford is an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> line winger. Stafford scored 22 a year ago and the Ducks would like to see that increase by 5-10 goals. Two way winger Curtis Glencross will start on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line but is capable of moving up into the top 6 if needed. Speedster Darren Helm is the 4<sup>th</sup> line left winger.

## Right Wing

The Ducks still have Jarome Iginla on the right side, Iggy will be counted on again to lead the Ducks and should benefit from playing with Stamkos and Getzlaf. An interesting camp battle for the Ducks is between Dan Cleary and Nik Antropov. For the 4<sup>th</sup> line, the Ducks brought in Matt Cooke.

## Center

Ryan Getzlaf and Matt Duchene give the Ducks a great 1-2 punch down the middle. Both players just keep getting better and better. Paul Gaustad is an underrated for a 3<sup>rd</sup> line center. Gaustad is an excellent penalty killer and great faceoff man. Mikael Backlund has made the jump from the AHL and could have a breakout year.

## Defense

The Ducks potentially have the best blue line in hockey. Nik Lidstrom and Shea Weber anchor the unit, while Drew Doughty and Mark Giordano or Kris Letang follows up Lidstrom and Weber. Bruno Gervais is the #6 defenseman.

## Goalie

Miikka Kiprusoff and Henrik Karlsson make up a very good tandem. The Ducks need Kipper to regain his form and improve on his 3.03 GAA and overall win-loss record.

## AHL Callups

The Ducks do not have many players ready to make the jump in case of injuries. David Desharnais is likely the first call up.

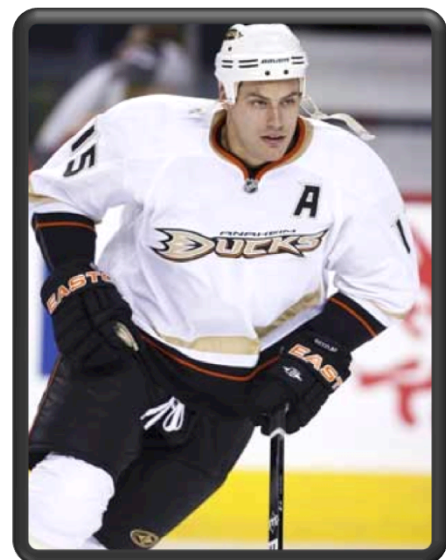
## Season Outlook

The Ducks are a much improved team and should be a playoff team. The question is, how many Flames can GM Ravi get his hands on?

## Around The League

"We really like our defensive unit which was a major weakness last year. Hopefully Lidstrom will provide the leadership and experience and guide a relatively young D core. Offensively I love the top line and the 3<sup>rd</sup> line. The second line could use an impact player to lead the way." **GM Patel's analysis of his team**

"The Ducks have a real good make up of skill and toughness, no one expected them to finish where they finished last year, so this team should play really well this year." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Boston Bruins



**GM: Kris Fernet**

## Left Wing

Simon Gagne headlines the group of left wings. He took a significant step back last season in the NHL and the ratings reflected that. He will still produce in Boston because GM KevanGuy finds a way to get the most out of his squad every year. Jochen Hecht, Kenndal McArdle and Darroll Powe finish it off. Gagne will have to carry most of the load for this season.

## Right Wing

Brian Gionta will give Briere another option to feed the puck to. Chris Kelly is a great option in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line RW spot because he is responsible in his own zone. Brad Richardson and Evgeny Artukhin will hit anything that moves. For any opposition forward going down the right side will have to get through both of those big boys.

## Center

Daniel Briere will be looked upon as a leader and point producer for this season. Him and Gagne will have some nice chemistry and speed that will put the opposition on its heels this season. Dainius Zubrus, Vern Fiddler and Justin Abdelkader will round out the centre depth. These two-way forwards will be responsible in their own zone and be depended on to shut down the opposition.

## Defense

Some nice depth on defense with Doug Murray, Scott Hannan, Mattias Ohlund and Kevin Klein representing the top 4. A nice mixture of puck movers and stay at home defensemen. They will need to help out the lack of firepower upfront, so hopefully Boston can find some nice chemistry. Lilja and Aaron Rome will pick up the bottom pairing and can hopefully hold their own and not give up too many goals.

## Goalie

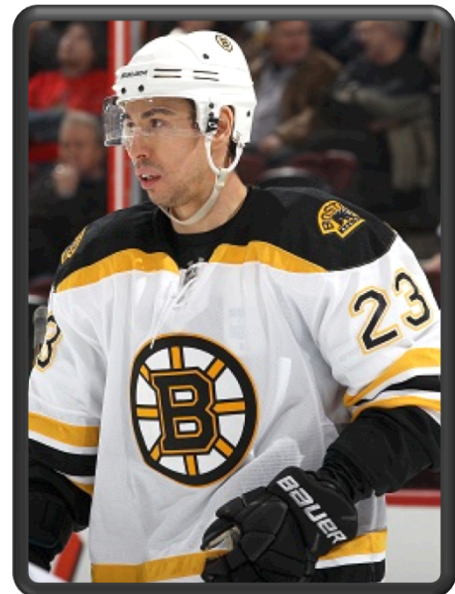
The strength of the Boston Bruins. Here they have 2 NHL goalies in Kari Lehtonen and James Reimer. The fact that these are two starters will give GM KevanGuy a lot of flexibility in terms of giving each other rest. Look for the GM to dangle one of these guys out on the trade market to help out their roster up front. Both have an extreme amount of value and will give Boston some nice players.

## AHL Callups

Boston will be in a similar situation as most teams with lack of call ups in case of an injury. Nokelainen and Sulzer will be there in case of a significant injury but will most likely stay in the AHL all year because they would have to pass through waivers. Look for a guy like Jonathan Sim or Mike Commodore to get the call as both guys will probably pass through waivers when they need to get sent back.

## Season Outlook

Like every season, most critics project Boston to finish on the outside looking in but GM KevanGuy can get the most out of his squad. I see them challenging for a playoff spot but depending on what kind of trades they make to improve their team throughout the season as of right now it will be hard to make it.



# Buffalo Sabres



**GM: Mike Innes**

## Left Wing

As of right now, Buffalo has Milan Lucic, Alex Steen and Chris Higgins. Nobody is in the 4<sup>th</sup> line spot so look for a stop gap or a trade to fill that spot. In terms of who is there currently, there is a nice mix of speed, strength and scoring. This will be a very underrated group.

## Right Wing

Currently it looks like Milan Hejduk and Joffrey Lupul will be very tired quickly as they are the only right wings on the roster. Hejduk has always been great in the sim and this year should be no different. Lupul is responsible in his own end but can also put the puck in the net.

## Center

Headlined by all-star Matt Stajan, he will be able to provide the puck to his wingers to do all the work while he sits back and picks up points. 280 pound Dustin Penner will be depended on to each up some significant minutes and put up some major points. Derek MacKenzie and Rickard Wallin will fill the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> line role. Look for a trade in those spots as neither of them can take on PK duties with the confidence of GM loob.

## Defense

The core of the Buffalo Sabres and always is the difference maker for this team. Mike Green and Tobias Enstrom are the core of this team and will be going forward. GM loob has been rumored to be shopping Green around to get some help up front. Jordan Leopold and Greg Zanon are the 2<sup>nd</sup> pairing and will be look upon to shut down the opposition. Brent Sopel and Kent Huskins will hopefully not give too much up but this pairing will not get a lot of minutes.

## Goalie

A very interesting part of the roster. With JS Giguere eating up 8.5 million in cap, he is not helping this team. Tuukka Rask was supposed to be the starting goalie for the Boston Bruins in the NHL but Tim Thomas stole that job from him and won the Stanley Cup. GM loob was really depending on Rask having a solid season and have a better rating for this season. I expect GM loob to go with these two and try and dump Giguere for anything he can get throughout the year.

## AHL Callups

A few nice pieces that will probably get a starting spot in the season will be Shawn Thornton, Slava Kozlov Linus Omark and Jakub Kindl. These guys might also become trade bait in some upgrades.

## Season Outlook

Similar to the Boston Bruins, GM loob gets the most out of his squad and this year will be no different. Look for the Sabres to make the playoffs this year and make some significant trades to help out his team in the stretch run.

## Around The League

“We Plan on surviving on our PP, where we have solid PP QBs including 2 time defending Norris champion Mike Green leading the charge. Our D is ok , has decent balance (based on CPHL ratings, would hate this d in the real NHL). As for Weaknesses; we have no gamebreaker. Goaltending will struggle this year as Rask didn't progress as expected with Tim Thomas so dominant.” **GM Innes's analysis of his team**

“The Sabres have had to move good talent due to cap reasons and is now catching up to this team. They're in tough to make the show this year, mainly due to suspect goaltending.” **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Calgary Flames



**GM: Dayel Peterson**

## Left Wing

Kristian Huselius (67) will need to have a big year for the Flames as he is the top LWer in Calgary. Alexander Frolov (64) and Raffi Torres (64) will alternate as the 2nd line LWer, while Brandon Segal (56), Chris Conner (58) and Rob Schremp (58) will duke it out for the 4th line role. Huselius and Frolov will need to put up big points for the Flames this year as offense may be hard to find in Calgary.

## Right Wing

Anti Miettinen (66) will be relied upon heavily to produce as he is followed by 3 defense first wingers in Gregory Campbell (64), Chris Neil (61) and Kevin Porter (61). The right wing needs a serious upgrade offensively, especially if Miettinen were to go down with an injury.

## Center

When Jason Blake (65) is your top line center, you may be in some trouble. Steve Ott and Sami Pahlsson provide some DF presence on lines 2 and 3, while Michael Nylander (56) will float his way around on the 4th line. The lack of a true #1, or #2, center will make it real difficult to match up against most of the other teams in the west.

## Defense

The top pairing of Barrett Jackman (67) and Brett Clark (67) will provide a stable presence, however the second pairing of Paul Mara (63) and Steve Staois (61) will have to shoulder a bigger load than they can likely handle. Lukas Krajicek (59), Martin Skoula (59), David Hale (57) and Jeff Finger (55) will duke it out for the right to be on the bottom pairing. Old broken down dmen and fringe NHLers make up this group of defenders.

Brodeur will face more rubber a night than Paris Hilton at spring break.

## Goalie

Martin Brodeur (85) is still one of the premiere goalies in the league and will likely face a barrage of shots. If he can stop the 40+ shots per game the Flames have a shot at making the playoffs.

Michael Leighton (71) will likely play 10 or 12 games this year and is not a big factor. Marty needs to show off some magic.

## AHL Callups

Brian Sutherby (55), Sean Collins (55) and the losers of the battles for 4th line LW and bottom pairing D will be the injury call ups.

## Season Outlook

This season could be a loooongg season for the Flames and their GM. Martin Brodeur will need to stand on his head, while Jackman and Clark need to remain healthy. With a poor prospect pool and the oldest team in the league the Flames are in tough. We have all learned over the years to never count out Cheese, but he will need a miracle this year to make the playoffs. Also, Cheese is old. Prediction: 4th in the North West and out of the playoffs.

## Around The League

"You just cannot count out any team that is being controlled by GM Peterson, winner of multiple CPHL championships and his run with the Flames after taking them over at the midpoint last year was a thing of beauty BUT in a tough western conference this year all odds are against his team. I think the luck runs out and Flames finish well outside of the playoffs." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Carolina Hurricanes



**GM: Doug Whalen**

## Left Wing

Vincent Lecavalier is in the last year of his 9.5 million dollar contract. Regardless, he will be counted to lead John Tavares, while putting up plenty of points. At the time of writing this, Carolina might be on the hunt for another LWer. For now, Troy Brouwer will start the season on the second line and vet Tom Kostopoulos will be penciled in for third line duty.

## Right Wing

He might only be 20, but John Tavares plays a seasoned game, which can only mean good things for the Hurricanes. He'll likely find himself on the top line with Lecavalier and if the two can develop some chemistry, that will only be a bonus for the club. After Tavares, the Hurricanes boast plenty of grit. That makes them a team not to push around because you can bet Tim Jackman and Daniel Carcillo will be more than happy to set other players straight.

## Center

There will be a battle for top line play and I can imagine that GM Hanna will be doing a bit of experiment during the pre-season to see who fits the bill as their number one guy. Could it be youngster Brandon Sutter? And you can never count out the likes of Tim Connolly and Scott Gomez. Last but certainly not least is Blair Betts, who has secured the fourth line spot. The 31-year-old is one of the hardest working centermen in the league and is the ideal player to have when it comes to crucial faceoffs.

## Defense

Carolina's defence includes the likes of Robyn Regehr, Jay Bouwmeester and Mike Komisarek. All three will log plenty of minutes for the team and coach Lindy Ruff will be counting Bouwmeester to be a difference maker on

the man advantage. Although Regehr is known for being a stay-at-home defenceman, it's time for him to take advantage of his big shot from the point. Combine that with some traffic in front of the net and Carolina will find success on the PP. Karl Alzner will likely see top four minutes, giving the highly touted prospect his chance to shine, especially if one of the top three should go down with an injury.

## Goalie

It's going to be a great battle in net for the 'Canes. Will it be Rick Dipietro or Semyon Varlamov? Both are signed to solid, long-term deals. Carolina also has the reliable Brian Boucher if there should be a major injury.

## AHL Callups

The goaltending depth continues with Pascal LeClaire and Joey MacDonald both available to play NHL minutes if needed. On the blueline, Adam McQuaid and Bobby Sanguinetti will be some of the first call-ups, while forward Brett Sutter can also be NHL ready.

## Season Outlook

GM Hanna assembled a lineup that includes a solid veteran/youth mix. There's also plenty of depth on the blueline and in between the pipes. If the team can put the puck in the net, the Carolina Hurricanes will have a roster that is post-season bound.

## Around The League

"Carolina has a pretty decent top 6 and defense, but the goaltending is going to be hard to overcome."

**GM Hesla of the Capitals**

"Carolina has few young forwards that are on the verge of breaking out but they should help the Canes compete for a playoff spot this year." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Chicago Blackhawks



**GM: Joseph Papparelli**

## Left Wing

The Left Wing for Chicago starts with Parise leading the charge. He is a stud and should be able to produce very well on the top line. Then there is Jeff Skinner and Milan Michalek. Both the players can play the 2<sup>nd</sup> line however if Michalek can't regain his past form look for the surging youngster to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> line duties and thrive there. Bottom line wingers are Bitz and Ruutu and there should be no surprised in their roles and performance..

## Right Wing

Right Wingers for the Blackhawks involve some big names like Brendan Morow, Derek Roy and Jaromir Jagr. The three should be able to have some good production this season with good pivots and linemates. Steve Downie also who has his offence recently should be able to have some healthy competition for minutes. AHL has some depth for injury basis in Andrew Gordon, Patrick Davis and Kaspar Daugavins. Look for a development from Marcus Sorenson leading to an improvement in his involvement in the upcoming year.

## Center

At the Center position Blackhawks boast a deep line. With the likes of Derek Roy, Mike Ribeiro lining up to play the top two lines they have enough speed to burn. The key will be for these two to have a healthy fight for the top line position. The depth does not end there with the likes of veterans like Mike Modano and Marty Reasoner. They should easily be able to handle and have their way on the face off dot as they have good FO ability. Jeff Skinner, Shawn Mathias and Artem Anisimov will appreciate having the veterans around as they are good pro players but have more to learn.

## Defense

The Blueline for the Blackhawks is no problem going into the season. Their number 1 defence man going into the season will be Daniel Girardi. Coming off a very good season last year Daniel should be able to work well his supporting cast. With the likes of youngsters named John Carlson, Erik Karlsson, Ryan McDonnagh and Cody Goloubef the blue line for the Blackhawks have tons of potential. Throw in Klesla, Ference, Ballard, Carson and Pothier and they have enough talent to have a good blue line in the upcoming season. Although all the youth might be good enough to steal a top 6 position with the Blackhawks, 1 maybe even 2 young blue liners might be sent down to Rockford for more icetime. The Blueline depth within the organization is substantial and should see improvement in strides in the upcoming season. Rockford will also be happy to have youngsters like Tyler Cuma, Patrick Weircoch and Pavel Valentenko. There is some good potential down the path for a few dmen to make the Blackhawks line up.

## Goalie

The masked men for the Blackhawks they are solid on the pro team with the rich Bryzgalov manning the net. He should be the clear number 1 and is paid like one. Yann Danis claims the backup role on the pro team but AHL star, Eddie Lack can push in training camp and steal a spot.

## AHL Callups

The AHL left wing has Nazem Kadri as the biggest piece to watch. Trevor Cann will be hoping his sophomore year in the AHL can help him make strides in camp and throughout the season.

## Season Outlook

The Hawks will have to fight hard to earn a playoff spot, they have good youngsters that should develop over the year and become future Hawks stars.

# Colorado Avalanche



**GM: Patrick Faith**

## Left Wing

Mike Cammalleri (69) is going to be the top line LW for the AVs this season, with David Perron (66) taking up 2nd line duty. A couple of Defensive minded wingers in Dan Paille (59) and Eric Nystrom (61), make up the rest of the LW corp. Perron is coming off a good CPHL year and Camel-Harry should put up some goals. Another mid 60 LWer would go along way to improve the depth.

## Right Wing

Rick Nash (73) is by far the top RWer for the Avs and will be heavily relied upon to put up points. Wojtek Wolski (65) and Peter Mueller (62) will be counted upon to provide secondary scoring, while Craig Adams (59) rounds out the wing. The Avs success may hinge on how good Wolski and Mueller perform the season.

## Center

Jason Spezza (72) is the clear cut number 1 center in Colorado and has a couple of nice snipers on his wings to dish to. Matthew Lombardi (66) will take up the second line spot and needs to put up some good numbers there. Rookie Derek Stepan (63) is pencilled in on the 3rd line and face-off wizard Ryan Johnson (59) will anchor the fourth line. Spezza will have the pleasure of dishing passes to Nash and Cammalleri all year and Lombardi will hope to repeat the success from last year.

## Defense

Andrei Markov (69), Chris Phillips (69), Ed Jovanovski (69) and Filip Kuba (67) will be the top four defensmen for the Avs. The top pairing will be determined by who of these players performs the best. Markov and Jovanovski will need to contribute offensively from the backend. Jason Demers (63) and Johnny Oduya (65) make up a stable bottom pairing. The health of Markov, Jovo

and Kuba will be instrumental in how well Colorado does this season.

## Goalie

Craig Anderson (80) and Steve Mason (77) provide a reliable, but unremarkable tandem. The luxury the Avalanche have is that they can ride the hot hand. If Anderson falters early I can see him being shipped out and the goalie of the future (Mason) being given the reigns.

## AHL Callups

Colin Greening (59), Tim Stapleton (55), Clay Wilson (56) and John Scott (56) will be the first call-ups in case of injury. The GM will have to make a move if any of his top liners go down for a significant length of time however.

## Season Outlook

The Avs season is going to hinge on the chemistry of the top line. Spezza is a proven Sim performer, while Nash and Cammalleri should provide some Snipes. Injuries may play a big factor as David Perron, Matthew Lombardi, Peter Mueller, Andrei Markov, Ed Jovanovski and Filip Kuba have all missed significant NHL time due to injury and have low DU ratings. However, the Avalanche have 18 Million in cheese room to play with as the season progresses, and have the flexibility to adapt. Prediction: 2nd in the North West and potential home ice in the playoffs.

## Around The League

"The Avalanche took a nig step last year and became a playoff team, they got better heading into this season and should make the playoffs, Spezza and Nash should form a dominating partnership on the first line." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Columbus Blue Jackets



**GM: Dave Penney**

## Left Wing

Left Wing for the Jackets are led by very good young players by the name of Logan Couture and T.J Oshie. Look for both of them to have good years alongside their superstar pivots. Hagman mans the third line for the Jackets on LW and look for him to try to have a bounce back year. Look for any of Thorburn, Bennet, Eaves or Nodl to be slotted into the 4<sup>th</sup> line duties. In the AHL, they have lots of depth and little potential for offence at the CPHL level. With names like Ryley Grantham, Harju, Cracknell and Francis Wathier they should have no shortage of injury call up for bottom line duties.

## Right Wing

The Right Wing for the BJs have Gaborik and Stewart playing the top two lines. Gaborik's health should be a concern and Stewart should be able to fill in formidably if needed on the top line. Patrick Eaves, Nodl or Chris Thorburn should be on the bottom lines. Better than most bottom 6's and should be able to play enough during the game to give Stewart and Gaborik some rest. In the minors there are a couple of veterans who can be used as depth during the season in Jason King and Desbiens. However their real focus is developing the youngsters Tyler Randell, C.J Stretch and Andre Peterson. Overall a good mix and should be a good season production wise.

## Center

The men lining up at the dot have very good depth. With Mike Richards and Mikko Koivu the Jackets should have no problem lining up against the opposition. The duo should be able to really carry the workload and improve their top 2 lines. The third and fourth center is Jeff Halpern and Phillippe Dupuis. With the duo of Koivu and Richards eating up majority of the minutes, Halpern and Dupuis should be able to perform well with the left over minutes and play some sound hockey on the bottom lines. The depth of the Syracuse Crunch in the center position has prospect Nick Oliver, Michael

Latta and Justin Dowling. The real veteran on that team is Aaron Gagnon who should if needed be able to step up to the Jackets.

## Defense

The Defense for the Jackets cannot be criticized for having holes. With excellent collection of talent in Pronger, Timmonen, Biekka, Gleason, Rivet and Schultz the team boasts a good top, middle and lower pairing. If there is any criticism on the defense it is the amount of money the Jackets have decided to spend on it. But you have to spend to get and they have one of the better D cores in the west. They should help clear loose pucks and make Quick's job easier.

## Goalie

Jonathan Quick is going to be the starting goalie going into the season and Alex Auld will back him up. There was controversy surrounding the Jackets organization sticking Nittymaki in the AHL due to contract management than playing ability. Nittymaki's agent was quoted as saying, "disappointed in the Jackets". The AHL net will be manned by Alec Richards, Mike Murphy and Brian Billett.

## AHL Callups

The Blue Jackets have a couple of dmen that can step up and help the Jackets if there is an injury in Tyler Sloan and Nigel Williams. Prospects Ben Wright, Sean Lorenz, Drew Olsen and Stephen Johns all have ways to go before they make an impact.

## Season Outlook

The Jackets have stars in the making and they should make the playoffs this year barring a major collapse of patience by GM Penney.

## Around The League

"The Blue Jackets are lead by Marian Gaborik on the front line, with a supporting cast that includes TJ Oshie and Mike Richards. On the blue line they're anchored by Chris Pronger and backstopped by Jonathan Quick. Its a good roster that is sure to change at the hands of one of the more active GMs in the league." **GM Lough of the Predators**



**GM: Rob Pittman**

## Left Wing

The Stars have a decent 1-2 on the left side. Antoine Vermette returns and is expected to increase on his 69 point season. Veteran Todd Bertuzzi will provide leadership but the Stars need him to bounce back from just 33 points a year ago. Fernando Pisani is currently penciled in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line but is better suited for 4<sup>th</sup> line minutes.

## Right Wing

The Stars acquired superstar Nik Backstrom just prior to the start of the season. Backstrom is one of the most skilled players in the league and the Stars are counting on Backstrom carrying the load offensively. Speedster Mason Raymond is a lock on the 2<sup>nd</sup> line but like Bertuzzi must increase his point total. Joel Ward is a rock on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line. Ward is excellent defensively and will likely play lots of minutes on the penalty kill. The Stars are hoping Ward can score around 20 goals this year. Patrick Kaleta brings energy and a physical presence up front.

## Center

The Stars have a mixed bag at the center position. They have a 1a-1b set up for the top 2 lines with Jeff Carter and Stephen Weiss but after that it is a fairly big gap down to either Daniel Winnik or Jim Slater in the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot. Slater did score 18 goals a year that might be enough to give him a head in the training camp battle with Winnik.

## Defense

The Stars have a nice looking blue line. The top pairing is likely Keith Yandle and newcomer Marc Staal. Tom Gilbert and Brooks Orpik look to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> pairing with Jonathan Ericsson and Matt Carkner on the bottom pairing. It's a nice mix between puck movers and stay at home defenders.

## Goalie

The Stars have one of the top starting goalies in the CPHL in Jonas Hiller. Hiller appeared in 71 of the Stars 82 games last year. The Stars would like veteran backup Manny Legace to be reliable in order to get Hiller some rest.

## AHL Callups

There is not a lot of immediate help waiting on the AHL's Texas Stars. First call-ups are likely Jay Rosehill, Sheldon Brookbank and Michael Sauer,

## Season Outlook

The Stars are another team in the Pacific Division that will be hard pressed to make the playoffs. There is just not enough depth up front to crack the top 8.s

## Around The League

"We have a decent top 6 forward group, solid top 4 defense, top 2 can log big minutes with good starting goaltender with a somewhat serviceable backup but the bottom 6 is pretty weak." **GM Pittman's analysis of his team**

"An injury to a top pairing Dman or top line forward would be devastating to the depth, this team should finish anywhere from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in the West." **GM Hesla of the Capitals**



# Detroit Red Wings



**GM: Trevor May**

## Left Wing

Left Wing for the Red Wings look better than some teams put together (Cough Blues Cough). Semin and Pominville lead the charge and eating up big minutes. Look for them to be used interchangeably on the top two lines. Brian Boyle and Jamie McGinn round out the top 4 but really hold only positional value because they will play more “keep the bench warm” than hockey. Boyle is a good bottom 6 player. In the AHL names like Brian Bickell, Oscar Moller, Phillip Gogulla and Chris Porter should provide some decent depth if needed throughout the season and look for the younger guys to have a good season development wise.

## Right Wing

Right Wing will have teams drooling over their players. With names like Teemu Selanne, Phil Kessel, P.A Parenteau, Afinigenov, Cheechoo look for there to be enough skill and depth in the case of Cheechoo to go around. This should be a productive group and look for them to be effective this season into the playoffs. They also have a good depth allowing their prospects like Zach Harnden and Nick Peterson to take their time in development. Also David Vander Gulik provides solid leadership in the AHL.

## Center

The Wings first line C is the versatile and strong two way player, Henrik Zetterberg. He should be able to play in all situations and be a strong addition to the Detroit's top 6. Beyond Zetterberg there is FO wizard Nate Thompson and Big Boyle. It remains to be seen if Detroit promotes a younger center for a bottom line duty or if they will address the need via trade. It is also possible that one of the wingers might be moved to center and if such is the case - the most likely name being tossed around is young stud, Phil Kessel. In the minor system, the group is headlined by

veteran Andrew Murray. He is also the most likely to steal a spot with the Wings in camp if he has a strong showing. The other centers in the system are Tommy Wingels – going into his sophomore season in the AHL, prospects JS Allard and Nathan Condon.

## Defense

With the recent jackpot signings of a few veterans, the team went from lacking depth to a lot of quality dmen. With the addition of Gonchar, Hamrlik and Roszival to Coburn, Cumiskey and White there is really no more need to improve their D. With good two way dmen, puck moving dmen and shut down dman who can play big minutes we should see this team really shine and make the job for Halak much easier.

## Goalie

The four masked men with a contract coming into camp will be headlined by starting goalie Jaroslav Halak, followed by veteran Marty Turco, Al Montoya and 19 year old Frederik Petterson- Wentzel. While the starting roal clearly belongs to Halak who should be backed up by Turco since he is on a 1 way contract. The starting job for the Griffins right now belongs to Montoya but a strong season by Wentzel can earn him more starts down the stretch.

## AHL Callups

When you look on the blue line of Grand Rapid Griffins only one word applies – Depth. Good depth for callup to the big leagues if it is on an injury basis or if they decide to trade someone. With the likes Deryk Engelland, Jay Harrison, Jeff Petry, Oliver Magnan, Anton Stralman and Radko Gudas the Griffins should also make the job easier for their goalie.

## Season Outlook

The Wings lucked out in the UFA as players decided they wanted to play in Hockeytown USA. They will challenge for a playoff spot but will heavily rely on Halak to get them there.

## Around The League

“Wings are weak down the middle. Solid everywhere else. They are a few moves from being a threat.” **GM Young of the Penguins**

# Edmonton Oilers



**GM: Brandon Maier**

## Left Wing

Edmonton's top LWer is Alexandre Burrows (70) and he will be counted on to be the leading goal scorer. Thomas Holmstrom (66) will provide some secondary scoring, while Chris Clark (61) and Tanner Glass (57) round out lines 3 and 4. It will be interesting to see how much offense Holmstrom can put up playing with Metropolitan and Morrison.

## Right Wing

Ruslan Fedotenko (63) is in over his head as the top RWer in Edmonton, while Glen Metropolit (60), Brad Winchester (59) and Joey Crabb (58) round out an underwhelming right wing in Edmonton. Edmonton will need to shore up their right wing in order to make any sort of noise in the west.

## Center

Patrick Elias (70) will need to put up a lot of points for the Oilers to be successful. Brendan Morrison (67) is a decent 2nd line option, and Jesse Winchester (60) and Cody McCormick (59) will duke it out for lines 3 and 4. Morrison is a solid complimentary player, but it sill tough for him to carry a line by himself. Elias is getting up there in age and will be overworked as the only real offensive threat down the middle.

## Defense

Joe Corvo (68) will be asked to shoulder the bulk of the load on defense this coming season. Chris Campoli (64), Radek Martinek (64) and Milan Jurcina (63) will be asked to play big minutes as well. The bottom pairing of Jeff Woywitka (60) and Alex Picard (58) could be exploited. The defense is soft and is a definite weak spot. A couple rugged Defensive dmen would really come in handy.

## Goalie

Chris Mason (78) and Johan Hedberg (77) will platoon in net and will need to be spectacular for Edmonton to have success. Mason had a very solid CPHL year last year, but is one year older and will need to repeat in order for the Oilers to come out of the basement.

## AHL Callups

Joey Crabb (58), Matthieu Perrault (56) and Tyson Strachan (57) are the call-ups. There is not much call-up depth past this point.

## Season Outlook

Unless Edmonton's goalies stand on their heads it will likely be a long year for the Oilers. Scoring depth is thin and the defense is going to rely heavily on Joe Corvo. Edmonton is definitely going to be looking towards 2012. Prediction: 5th in the North West and out of the playoffs.

## Around The League

"Once a powerhouse the Oilers have undergone numerous leadership changes the past few seasons. This team will struggle to score goals and keep them out, playoffs are very unlikely." **GM Schum of the Flyers**

"A few solid vets. But overall doesn't have the firepower or goaltending to keep up with the powerhouses in the west." **GM Young of the Penguins**



# Florida Panthers



**GM: Matt Duborg**

## Left Wing

Ilya Kovalchuk will likely be the most important piece of the puzzle for this season's Florida Panthers. He's fresh off signing a new 3-year contract with 8.5 million and will look to pave the way for the other talent on the roster. Alexei Ponikarovsky will fit in nicely on the second line.

## Right Wing

Although he's had injury issues in the past, Alex Hemsky is a no-brainer when it comes to top-line duties on the right side. Soft hands and a great vision will tremendously benefit the Florida organization. Ryan Malone will be able to fill in on the scoring line if needed and will find himself playing a key role on the second PP unit.

## Center

GM Caged Great will have a couple of options when he comes to the centerman on his top line. Both Michal Handzus and Olli Jokinen can fit the bill, but with the recent decline in Handzus' responsibilities, Jokinen will likely be the guy. David Steckel will find himself anchoring the third line.

## Defense

Zbynek Michalek will lead the Panther's blueline this season and he'll be counted on to play a large chunk of minutes. Second in line will be Stephane Robidas who can likely still be effective as a 34-year-old. Michalek and Robidas will pave the way for Carl Gunnarsson, who will be expected to take the next step in his NHL career. The Swede likely finds himself on the second PP unit thanks to his good puck-moving skills. Gunnarsson can emerge as a star on Florida because he covets something many blueliners want: a strong, smart outlet pass.

## Goalie

A couple of veterans are slated to man the pipes for the Florida Panthers this season. Evgeni Nabokov will play the majority of the games, but Brent Johnson does have the experience to play about 20-25 this season.

## AHL Callups

A couple of veterans are slated to man the pipes for the Florida Panthers this season. Evgeni Nabokov will play the majority of the games, but Brent Johnson does have the experience to play about 20-25 this season.

## Season Outlook

The Panthers should be able to put the puck in the net, thanks to Kovalchuk, Ponikarovsky, Malone and Hemsky. The question mark comes on the backend. If one of the top three get injured on the blueline, there may not be anyone to step up and play those key minutes. However, that's a worst case scenario. I think Florida is going to be a streaky team and will win and lose in bunches. But as mentioned, if the top line finds chemistry, anything is possible.



# Los Angeles Kings



**GM: BJ Blanchard**

## Left Wing

The Kings have brought in 2 new top left wingers. Ryan Clowe and Andrew Brunette enter not only to help the offense but both are excellent leaders. Agitator Cal Clutterbuck and defensive forward Jay McClement will battle for the 3<sup>rd</sup> line left wing spot.

## Right Wing

Los Angeles fans want to go to Staples Center to see stars. Kings GM Blanchard went out and landed one of the best right wingers in the CPHL in Martin St. Louis. St. Louis will likely lead the Kings in scoring, is the most talented forward on the roster and is an excellent leader. Blake Wheeler and Tomas Kopecky are in a camp battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> line minutes, Wheeler had 30 points last year while Kopecky had 23. The Kings need both players to increase their production. Trevor Daley enters training camp as a right winger this year. Whether Daley sticks up front remains to be seen.

## Center

The Kings return both Ryan Kesler and Patrice Bergeron. Both had at least 70 points last year and there is no reason why both won't increase their numbers this year. Manny Malhotra is one of the best 3<sup>rd</sup> line centers in the game. He is great on faceoffs and on the penalty kill. Veteran Scott Nichol will be the 4<sup>th</sup> line center and like Malhotra is excellent on faceoffs.

## Defense

The Kings have an excellent blue line led by Zdeno Chara and Dan Boyle. Both can log big minutes as they play in all situations. Matt Carle, Marc-Edouard Vlasic and Alex Goligoski will all battle it out for the #3 and #4 spots. The loser of the battle will be paired with veteran Sean O'Donnell.

## Goalie

Tomas Vokoun and Nik Khabboozin make up one of the best tandems in the league. Vokoun was good with the Kings last year but the Kings would like him to be better.

## AHL Callups

The Kings have lots of depth in Manchester. Colin Wilson, Brandon Prust, Nathan Gerbe and Mike Weber are all waiting for the call up.

## Season Outlook

The Kings are a deep team and have a GM that is not afraid to pull the trigger on big deals. The Kings will make the playoffs and will be in a battle with the Sharks and Ducks for the division title.

## Around The League

"The Kings went into the off-season with one goal of obtaining players with leadership qualities and they accomplished that goal. That should help them win few more games and be successful in the playoffs."

**GM Schum of the Flyers**

"Solid all around with few weaknesses, will be interesting to see if the chemistry is there. Could be the top team in the west with good sim luck. Or could find itself fighting for the playoffs because of how good the other teams are around there. I see them a shoe in for the top 5 in the west though." **GM Young of the Penguins**



# Minnesota Wild



**GM: Grant Farhall**

## Left Wing

Dany Heatley (72) is currently pencilled in as the top LWer and will be counted on to put the puck in the net. Alexei Kovalev (66), Micheal Grabner (65) and Tyler Kennedy (64) will rotate through the other left wing positions, depending on Chemistry. Offense shouldn't be an issue on the LW, the soft play of Kovalev might though. If Heatley falters playing with Crosby he will be the first Wild player shown the door.

## Right Wing

Alex Ovechkin (77) headlines the right wing and in theory should put up a tonne of goals playing with Crosby. Martin Havlat (70) is an excellent 2nd line option, while Jacob Voracek (65) is pencilled in for the 3rd line. Peter Regin (59) provides a Defensive presence to the 4th line. Is this the year the the Great 8 puts it together in the CPHL?

## Center

Sid the Kid Crosby (78) is currently the highest rated player in the game, and in theory should put up 100 assists playing with Ovechkin and Heatley. Evgeni Malkin (74), who is the second line center, would be the top player on most CPHL teams. Sam Gagner (65) will provide some offense to the 3rd line, while the enigmatic Kyle Turris (60) is slotted in as the center on the 4th line. The center position is not an issue in Minny if Gagner can provide some secondary scoring.

## Defense

The defense is headlined by Jack Johnson (70), who should play on the top pairing. Andy Greene (67), JM Liles (68) and Derek Morris (68) will make up the rest of the top 4. Alex Pietrangelo (65) and Kevin Shattenkirk (62) make up a youthful and high potential bottom pairing. Grant Clitsome (56) will provide press-box popcorn. The defense is balanced, and has some offensive skill.

Liles and Pietrangelo will need to provide some offense to make up for the deficiency in net.

## Goalie

Corey Schnieder (76) will be counted on to play above his rating for this season. While Christobal Huet (73) will backup. This is a serious weakness on the Wild and could be their Achilles heel. I am sure Grant has made it a priority to acquire a top goalie at some point this season.

## AHL Callups

Jack SKille (58), Michael Boeddker (58), Luca Sbisa (59) and Micheal Del Zotto (58) will be the first callups and are likely to be regulars next season for the Wild. The Wilds call-ups would make most CPHL teams.

## Season Outlook

If the Wild can overcome poor goaltending, they should walk away with the top spot in the Northwest. They have the firepower to win games 8-7, but may have to move an elite player for goaltending help (and have the depth to do so). It will be interesting to see how the Crosby-Ovechkin experiment works out, as it has failed in the past. The Wild fought with Sim chemistry last season and expect lots of moves if the chemistry is lacking again. Prediction: 1st in the North West and top spot in the West.

## Around The League

"Great team from the blue line out. Questionable goaltending. Will be interesting to see if Grant stays with the young goalies or if he has to force his hand and deal for a veteran starter. The assets are there to bring in anything the team needs so if they struggle from the start look for trades." **GM Young of the Penguins**



## The Good and the Bad

### Newbie GM's Perspective

BY: NICK FLEECHART

As an American treading in a Canadian heavy game I knew that I would have my work cut out for me when I considered signing up for the CPHL. My Sim Hockey league experience and knowledge left a lot to be desired compared to most of the guys in the league but I figured since I had so much fun on CalgaryPuck since I joined up in 2007.. why not?

There are many things to that you have to learn about sim league hockey as your getting started and none more important than this : " You think Canadian males are passionate about their favorite NHL teams? Well give them a chance to pretend to be an NHL GM in a sim league and you will see what Canadian hockey passion is all about. Whether its early morning MSN messages from "MJK" where he is trying to take your best player or Late night convos with "Da Chief" in which is he trying to talk you into sending more cap to this team there many really good things and some bad things about the CPHL .

#### CPHL

#### The Good:

First off , hands down, the best thing about the CPHL is the group of guys assembled there. Sure there are a few bad eggs but for the most part I have enjoyed my conversations with all the GMs. All the GM's are very very knowledgeable in the game of hockey, go ahead and ask them and they will surely tell you. Another good thing about the CPHL is the amount of knowledge you attain about current players / future NHL'ers that you had no clue about. It also makes watching real life hockey more fun. I cant remember how many times since I joined the CPHL I came across a hockey article about a certain player and I get excited because he is on my ECHL team. I Digress though..... As I said the best thing about the CPHL is the GM's . I have made a few friends and

a few competitive rivals too. Since we are talking GM's I give the favorite GM award to Patrick - Gm of the Avs - for being a good dude, easy to talk to, and always willing to help with questions about trades. Honorable mention goes to Grant GM of the Wild... mainly because he is in charge and I need brownie points =) .

#### The Bad:

The thing that I realized quickly is there are some GM's who definitely aren't here to help you at all. When I started the league it almost like wolves leading the sheep to slaughter. In the CPHL new meat = a contest for some GM's to see who can make the worst trade offer to the new guy within his training wheel time. While I don't remember the worst offers I think the worst offers probably came from MJK. I actually really like talking to MJK but when it comes to trades he wants your best players for his worst. Obviously I am exaggerating a bit for this article but it doesn't take long in the CPHL to figure out which GM's will try to catch ya slipping. This game is all in fun , and it's fun to be serious sometimes but truth be told the worst part of the league is the vultures. People who want to talk CPHL all the time and wont leave you alone til they get their what they want. Hell hath no fury like a CPHL GM when you don't want to trade with him/her.

To sum this up CPHL is a great group of guys. All the GM's even out. For every GM that is way to overbearing there seems to be a GM who is very lax and easy going and 2 Gms who are in between the two. If a new GM can stomach the training period full of ridiculous trade offers( and the trade proposers telling you your dumb for not accepting such a great deal "in their opinion) and deal with 1 or 2 of the famous BJ meltdowns then he will most likely start to enjoy his time here. Personally I have wasted quite a few days at work just looking up players and such. You never really how much time and fun being a fantasy GM can be until you try it.

# Montreal Canadiens



GM: Al Vira

## Left Wing

Thomas Vanek headlines the left wing spot who seemed to struggle a bit in offensive production last year playing on the top line and getting 1<sup>st</sup> PP minutes. Look for him to have a big season this year. The second line spot looks like it will be going to young goal scorer, Matt Moulson, the young future star was brought in during the off season. He did not sim very well but also finished the season on the New York Rangers. Rounding out the bottom 6 left winger spots will be Kris Versteeg and Ville Leino. Two forwards that are responsible defensively and can pot a few goals here and there.

## Right Wing

The weakest spot on the Canadiens, but still extremely solid. Rene Bourque will probably get the 1<sup>st</sup> line RW spot but look for GM Vman to possibly mix it up and move one of Sharp or Marleau to the RW spot (if he can find a link). Second line duty will be given to Patric Hornqvist who will have a great year playing with one of the "Big 3" centres and Matt Moulson. The 2<sup>nd</sup> line should produce quite a few goals. Stewart and Bernier will play the bottom 6 roles. They are not very good defensively so it could be an issue throughout the season.

## Center

It is quite possibly the best depth in the league with headliners such as Jonathan Toews, Patrick Sharp and Patrick Marleau. It is remain to be seen who will slot into the 4<sup>th</sup> line duty but with depth like that, I don't know if it matters. Currently it looks like Corey Locke will get the roll but look for Montreal to find a better fit there. Johnathan Toews was an absolute beast last year putting up 52 goals and 110 points, look for him to have another solid season.

## Defense

Ducan Keith and Christian Ehrhoff will have no problem getting the puck to the top end talent up front. Dion Phaneuf will get time all over the place on the PP, PK and even strength. He will make a big difference in how this defensive

group will perform. After those 3 big names, it is a significant drop off with Cory Sarich who has a nice new 3 year grid deal, Matt Niskanen and Sami Lepisto. Look for one of those guys to be moved for an upgrade sometime in the near future so the Top 4 can handle significant minutes.

## Goalie

Going with the same goalie tandem that won the CPHL Championship for them 2 years in a row, Ryan Miller will try to backstop the Canadiens to a 3<sup>rd</sup> straight championship and officially become a dynasty. Harding is a nice option to give Miller a few days rest but his injury issues might haunt him.

## AHL Callups

With Harding having the injury issues he has had his whole career, look for Alex Stalock or Alexander Salak to be a call up to back up Ryan Miller. On defense, there really isn't any great call up to help out in case of an injury so anyone that does not have to go through waivers will get the call. Forward is a similar situation with Brunstrom being the highest rated call up at a 55 OVR. Look for Montreal to bring in some depth in case of injuries haunt them.

## Season Outlook

As normal, Montreal will be a contender this year with the high end talent they have. The talk around the league is this team took a step back this season but are a powerhouse within the weak northeast division. Look for them to again win the division next year.

## Around The League

"Habs are the best team 2 years straight and have the team to keep going. It will be interesting to see what moves the new gm can make to keep the Habs above the strong teams in the East that are knocking on the door." **GM Young of the Penguins**

"The favorites to win it again but no team has ever won three cups in a row in the history of the CPHL. It'll will be a daunting task but if their top guns perform the way they can three peat won't be impossible." **GM Schum of the Flyers**

# Nashville Predators



**GM: Victor Lough**

## Left Wing

Left Wing for Preds isn't especially strong. Their top line LW appears to be Ponikarovsky heading into camp and with the lack of depth on the wings, look for their forwards to struggle to put the puck in the net. Sophomore Mike Santorelli should be a bottom 6 player but will get a chance to play on the top two lines barring trade. Zharkov and Janssen should man the bottom two lines. Brian Rolston the top LW in NSH is stuck in the minors due to contract management. If somehow they can manage to bring him up to the CPHL, they should have a better lineup. Shirokov, Sweatt, Luca Cunti, Butler and Hoeffel should all benefit from the extra development time they will get down in the minors.

## Right Wing

Right Wing is just as a mess as the LW but is even worse off for depth. With Franzen leading the way followed by players we don't recognize it will be tough for the team to score goals. Opposition will only have to concentrate on the top line and shut them down. Godard, Fraser and Brown are the bottom 3 wingers. Who are these guys? In the AHL the RW situation is looking good with youngsters like Jimmy Hayes, Mark Mancari and Tomas Kubalik. They should develop in a couple of years and make an impact.

## Center

The centers for the team are lead by a pair of veterans. Daymond Langkow could be looking for a bounce back year. Marc Savard is also looking for redemption after a tough season. Between the two they should cover the top 2 lines. Given the contracts, Savard should be the number 1 center but it we wait to see if that happens to be so. David Steckel is a very good third line C who should be able to step up to the top two lines if one of them goes down with an injury. Colin Wilson rounds out the top 4 with little to no pressure being put on by

the centres on AHL. Maxime Tanguay, Eric Tangradi, Anton Gustafsson all need more development time before they can see some pro ice. Irwin, Marcou, Matsumoto and Sharp round out the AHL centres. They have decent depth and good potential in the AHL making Eric Tangradi being the closest to making an impact on the Nashville Predators.

## Defense

The Preds have a few familiar faces coming back on the blue line. After signing Kim Johnsson for pennies in UFA and returning dmen, Mike Lundin, Scuderi, Salvador with Hunwick and Foster have a real blue collar feel. With no flashy names and no slick skating dmen with hands that dangle in a phone booth the Preds will be looking to have a good solid defensive effort from its D core for the season. There is obviously room for improvement and if they are in a playoff position or in a place to push, I see Slava making some deals to improve the blue line. Overall a decent blue line with good ability to help the masked man.

## Goalie

The name in net begins and ends with Nicklas Backstrom. The man waiting to run with the ball if Backstrom slides - is Ben Bishop and he is more than capable of it. Looking to take the next step Bishop, Tyler Beskorowany and JD Deslauriers should progress well but they might get their starting role elsewhere because right now only one can play G in NSH and that man is Nicklas Backstrom.

## AHL Callups

On the AHL they have a few youngsters and puck moving dman Kris Russell. I do question the tactic of hiding their one of their better puck movers on the AHL but Russell should push for a spot on the pro team with a clear need for his ability. Ty Wishart, Matt Donovan, Jake Newton and Ted ruth some of the notables on the AHL blueline who need some more development before making the jump to the Preds.

## Season Outlook

It should be a long season on Nashville as GM Lough tries to re-build his team. Playoffs will only be a dream.

# New Jersey Devils



GM: Steve R

## Left Wing

Talented young sniper Jamie Benn will get every opportunity on the left side to have an all-star caliber season. If he finds the pressure of playing against opposing team's top checkers too much to handle, the scoring hopes on the left side fall on the enigmatic shoulders of Sergei Samsonov who has had his experience with success and failure under pressure in the past. Rounding out the left side are a very inexperienced and lesser known trio: Ryan Stoa, TJ Galiardi, and Richard Clune; there are virtually no expectations for any of the young players.

## Right Wing

The extremely talented and loathed power forward Corey Perry will provide the Devils with a scoring touch not seen in some time in New Jersey from the wing and completes a true top first line. Kyle Okposo and his flailing unconventional style of play will provide depth and scoring to the forward ranks if healthy. Veteran checker and defensive specialist Mike Grier will be relied on as a shut down forward and top penalty killer. Completing the right side is steady and hard working Ryan Shannon who can play error free hockey anywhere in the bottom six.

## Center

Perpetual All-Star centre Brad Richards will bring leadership and scoring to the Devils and will play in all situations. A full season of Brad Richards may be exactly what the Devils need to lift the team to a playoff birth. Following Richards will be gifted young centreman Claude Giroux. Without the pressure of being the number one centre, expect Giroux to have a stellar offensive season which can only increase the chances of making the Devils a post-season threat. Speedster Andrew Coglianio will also centre a line and the hope is he either gains a scoring touch or brings a defensive aspect to the team as everyone in the CPHL is somewhat confused as to what he actually does properly other than skate extremely fast. The

Devils GM has yet to introduce a forth centre to the team and there are whispers around the league that Brad Richards will be double shifting; an inside source has confirmed that a large shipment of Cortisone has been warehoused by the Devils training staff.

## Defense

Assistant captain Brent Seabrook is the only standout in what is overall an average six-pack of defenseman. His hard-hitting and defensive style of play has allowed him room to contribute more at the offensive end and if the Devils find themselves in the playoffs, Seabrook is likely had a huge impact. Steady shut-down style defensemen Brad Stuart, Francis Boullion, and Anton Volchenkov will help keep scoring chances down and are capable of making a decent first pass in transition. It gets sketchy after the top four with Carlo Colaiacovo who has managed to stay employed despite never coming close to reaching his potential and Johnny Boychuk who could have a solid season by having the benefit of playing protected hockey, much Like Dion Phaneuf in his first 2 seasons. Mark "Press-box" Popovic will stand guard as usual in his suit for most of the season.

## Goalie

Regular season standout Roberto Luongo will likely be between the pipes for 70+ games this season and based on the makeup of the defense corps, should have Mike Vernon Award type of season. If the Devils reach the playoffs, the Devils faithful hope Luongo doesn't defecate the bed. Veteran backup Mathieu Garon should be able to keep Luongo in good spirits if he falters and will give the team a chance in most of his starts.

## AHL Callups

Tom Wandell, Mattias Tedenby, and Alec Martinez are all potential call-ups if injuries occur.

## Season Outlook

The Devils look poised to make a playoff push this season. With a true number one centre, a top goaltender, and a top defenseman it would be no surprise to see the Devils competing for the championship. Much like the Islanders, the Devils will have to rely on playing a smart brand of hockey and solid defensive play every game for a chance at the playoffs; the big difference here is a phenomenal top line. Expect the Devils to finish between 6 and 9 in the Eastern Conference.

# New York Islanders



**GM: Mike Beauchamp**

## Left Wing

Hailing from Banff, Alberta, Mr. Mullet Ryan Smyth leads a serviceable group of left wingers with his "hills have eyes" style of hockey. Hard working Taylor Pyatt will provide risk free hockey while on the ice and will contribute the odd goal. Andrei Kostitsyn is a key player in this group as he is expected to contribute on both ends of the ice; being a contract year, look for him to come through. Disciplined winger Drew Miller will plug the fourth line.

## Right Wing

Although these two wingers are both expected to flash the red light for the Islanders, Chris Kunitz and Radim Vrbata have very different approaches to putting the puck in the net. Both are able scorers who will play a huge role in the Islanders success, or lack thereof, this season. Ryan Jones and Pat Dwyer will be fighting for third line minutes; expect one of these tenacious gentlemen to tie up this spot early in the season.

## Center

Although not talented, the Islanders middle men are a hard working and experienced bunch with enough leadership qualities to bring the forwards together as a whole. Matt Cullen and Eric Belanger will likely take turns on the top line contingent on who is able to contribute offensively on a consistent basis; both are adept at faceoffs. Dominic Moore is slated for the third line and the hope is his defensive and faceoff abilities will keep the puck away from the enemy's top players. Feisty Matt Hendricks will see time on the fourth line and should give the team a spark when necessary.

## Defense

Although only 21, friendly giant Tyler Myers has the ability to lead the Islanders' defense corps on both ends of the ice. Myers is a true number one defenseman and stud

who is expected to have a huge impact on the Islanders' success this season. Dennis Seidenberg is an underrated player who can succeed playing any style of game and can aptly adapt in any situation the opposing team imposes on him. Hard-nosed shutdown defenseman Willie Mitchell will be contesting the opposing team's star players all season; if Mitchell stays healthy it should drastically cut down on the scoring chances against. After the top three there is a substantial drop off in talent. Veterans Steve Eminger and Steve Montador will be counted on to hold down the fort with their no-nonsense characteristics. Youngster Jamie McBain is penciled in as the sixth man and will likely see minimum minutes during the season.

## Goalie

More than any other team in the league, the fate of the Islanders season will rest on their goalie. Perennial Mike Vernon Award candidate Henrik Lundqvist has the ability to once again lead his team to the Promised Land and cause fits for any playoff opponent. Experienced and able backup Scott Clemmensen is spoke of as a great teammate and should keep Lundqvist on an even keel and can also win his share of games when between the pipes.

## AHL Callups

A set of strange named fellows, Mike Zigomanis, Paul Szczechura, and Victor Oreskovich will likely see time in the CPHL if injuries occur. Defenseman Keaton Ellerby and Mathieu Roy are candidates for callups along with goaltender Ty Conklin

## Season Outlook

It's no secret to opposing managers that the Islanders do not have the horses to compete against most teams in the league in any kind of run and gun scenario. The Islanders will be relying on their experience, faceoff abilities, defensive prowess, and a puck possession style of game in the hopes of cutting down scoring chances on Lundqvist while capitalizing on the opposing team's mistakes. If they stay within their system, expect the Islanders to finish between 7 and 10 in the Eastern Conference standings.

## Around The League

"Strong goaltending and defense. But very weak up front. Will need Lundqvist to steal a lot of 1-0 and 2-1 games to be respectable this season." **GM Young of the Penguins**

# New York Rangers



**GM: Jeff Philipoff**

## Left Wing

: As it stands, the only offensive spark on the left side will come from the quick release of Jussi Jokinen; the talent subsequently trails off quickly. Victor Stalberg has shown flashes of offensive upside but has yet to make a consistent impact, however, he remains a decent asset. The Jerk, no not Dave Penney but Sean Avery, will get his fair share of minutes as he remains an occasional impact player. The left side is rounded out by hard working plug Ryan Carter who will check anything that moves and will not hurt the team defensively.

## Right Wing

This side of the ice hosts significantly more talent and leadership than its right counterpart. Aged veterans Mike Knuble and Mikael Samuelsson both have knack for scoring clutch goals should provide chemistry and opportunity to any line they play on. Although streaky, Lee Stempniak has the ability to maintain long stretches of offense; GM Philipoff can only hope that these stretches come when the rest of the team needs a spark. Much like Carter on the right side, Brandon Yip should provide energy without the risk of frequent turnovers.

## Center

Team Captain and former Kamloops Blazer standout Shane Doan leads the forward cast and will create room for his teammates in the offensive zone while taking opposing defenseman with him to the net. Following his captain, faceoff guru Jarett Stoll brings a strong 2 way presence to the team and will see plenty of time on the ice in the last minutes of the game to either gain control in the offensive zone or to win a key faceoff on defense. Rounding out the centre position are grizzled veteran Jamal Mayers who will provide leadership and a strong faceoff ability and Jiri Hudler who has the ability to find chemistry in the bottom six.

## Defense

The Rangers find most of their roster stability in the top four on their blueline. James Wisniewski is a definite gamer and point contributor. He will be relied on to quarterback the powerplay and to briskly move the puck in transition. Although emerging as a potential defensive stalwart, Andrej Mezaros can also be counted on to competently move the puck and will eat up significant minutes. Experienced defenseman Toni Lydman plays predominantly a shut down role and will provide a calming presence on the back end. Jan Hejda rounds out a solid top 4 with above average checking, defensive, and leadership abilities. Mark Stuart and Adam Pardy fill the fifth and sixth spots and will likely not be relied on to contribute any significant minutes.

## Goalie

Guarding the goal is talented youngster Ondrej Pavelac whose abilities are without a doubt on par with other number one goaltenders; however, it is unknown whether he will be able to put an entire season of consistent above average performances together. If the youngster falters, the hopes of the Rangers faithful rest on the shoulders of veteran backup Jason LaBarbera; creating an unsettling scenario.

## AHL Callups

Apart from Robert Nilsson, the Rangers find themselves in a similar situation as their division rival Flyers. Any major injuries will no doubt create a void in the roster and a trade is likely.

## Season Outlook

With a lack of top offensive talent, the Rangers will be heavily relying on their experience and leadership to keep the team in playoff contention. The Rangers GM/Manager will definitely have to make the most of his savvy sim reputation to take this team deep into the playoffs. The Rangers are expected to finish somewhere between 6 and 9 in the final Eastern Conference Standings.

## Around The League

“Solid team from top to bottom but no real top end talent. Will really need a team effort and a few over achievers to make some noise. Pavelac will need to step up huge against some high powered divisional foes.” **GM Young of the Penguins**

# Ottawa Senators



**GM: Mike Walsh**

## Left Wing

With a new GM coming in, there were some immediate impacts made in the forward group. James Van Reimsdyk headlines the left wings and will take a major step in his NHL career this season. Blake Comeau will be depended on to put in a few goals throughout the season. David Clarkson and Cal O'Reilly will try and be good in their own zone.

## Right Wing

Tomas Fleischmann and Andrew Ladd will be a problem for the opposition. Both of them can score goals and provide some nice energy. There is a significant drop off after these two so look for them to get a lot of minutes. Fredrik Sjostrom and Andrei Loktionov will slot in on the bottom 6 for now but look for GM FlickeredFlame to address this issue early in the season.

## Center

The pride and joy of the Senators who will have no problem defining who fits where. Eric Staal will be the 1<sup>st</sup> line centre and be depended on to carry this team as far as it can. David Krejci is a very nice 2<sup>nd</sup> line centre who will make his wingers better. Martin Hanzal will shut down the opposition and also make his wingers better. Ryan Potulny will be looked on to provide some energy when the team needs it.

## Defense

Headlined by Ryan Whitney and Nick Schultz, these two will eat up most of the minutes for the Sens this season. Shaonne Morrison, Shane O'Brien, Mike Mottau, and Marc Methot will round out the defensive group this year and will hopefully generate some sim chemistry quickly because on paper it may be a long season.

## Goalie

Marc-Andre Fleury will be the goalie for this team for a very long time so he better get used to who is playing in front of him and quick. The Sens will go as far as Fleury will take them. Curtis McElhinney will backup Fleury but probably won't get any significant playing time.

## AHL Callups

The Sens have some nice options on defense with Brian Lee and Clayton Stoner but will probably spend most of their time on the AHL team. Like most, there is not that much depth after that so look for a few random guys to get the nod if there is an injury.

## Season Outlook

GM Flickered Flame looks like he is tired of having a losing team in Ottawa so look for this team to make a push for a playoff spot. He has the pieces to make his team better now, but will be pull the trigger on some top named prospects to do so? I am predicting Yes and if so, look for this team to make the playoffs in the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> spot.

## Around The League

"The sens are completely rebuilt and a much deeper team then in the past. The problem with their depth is that they sacrificed high end talent to get deep. If their top guys perform they should be a contender in the east. If not it may be a long year. Much improved team then the squad that finished last season." GM Young of the Penguins



# Philadelphia Flyers



**GM: Joe Schum**

## Left Wing

Led by standout 2-way Swede Loui Eriksson, this established group of wingers, all in their 20s, is deep and should contribute on each line. Sniper Nikolai Kulyemin is talented and dynamic and should easily mesh with one of the Flyers' creative centres. Brad Boyes and Maxime Talbot are a more experienced pair that can provide stability on the offensive and defensive ends of the ice respectively.

## Right Wing

As a group the right side is an up and down aggressive bunch who possess an exceptional combination of offensive flair, defensive awareness, leadership, and grit. Marian Hossa can produce in any situation and on any line and is rarely a liability on the ice. Ryan Callahan, RJ Umberger, and Colby Armstrong will create turnovers in the offensive zone with their checking and tenacious nature and will chip in their share of game winning goals.

## Center

Down the middle the Flyers are blessed with a glut of top line talent. Each centre brings a different style which will could force opposing coaches into early retirement. If the enemy is successful in stopping the dynamic 2 way play of Pavel Datsyuk, can they adapt and hold off the elusive passing of Joe Thornton or the power and drive of Brandon Dubinsky? Don't think it will be easy to deal with the fourth line centre Zenon Konopka either, this bully wins the majority of his faceoffs.

## Defense

A stellar group of established defenseman patrols the Flyers' blue-line. Minute eater Ryan Suter is a defensive stalwart with amazing conditioning and underrated offensive abilities. Suter, along with Brent Burns and Lubomir

Visnovsky, are adept at quickly moving the puck up the ice while Paul Martin, Dan Hamhuis, and Bryan Allen provide experience, leadership, and shut down abilities. Overall this is a highly rated posse who have the ability to control a game in many different ways.

## Goalie

Barring an unexpected injury, Cam Ward will start the brunt of the games. Although streaky, you can bet there will be longer streaks of great play than poor play. Jonas Gustavson will serve as backup in the upcoming season and will hopefully not be relied on down the stretch as he has not yet reached his potential and lacks experience; this may create doubt in the minds of the skaters in front of him causing poor judgment and mistakes.

## AHL Callups

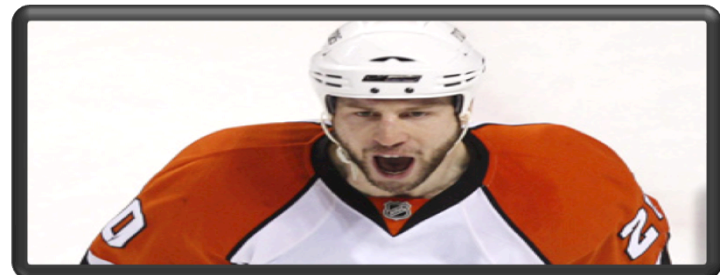
The Flyers have put all their eggs in the CPHL basket as Mark Eaton is the only worthy call-up. Zach Dalpe might see a few CPHL games as an emergency call-up. If a major injury happens, don't expect either of these players to last long in the big league; a quick transaction by the Flyers GM is the likely outcome.

## Season Outlook

There is little doubt that the Flyers have the depth and talent to contend for both the regular season and post season titles. The question is will this roster find chemistry that will endure throughout the playoffs. All signs point toward a top 2 spot in the Eastern Conference.

## Around The League

"The favorites going into the CPHL season." **GM Hesla of the Capitals**



# Phoenix Coyotes



**GM: Williams Ryba**

## Left Wing

The Coyotes start the year without a top line left winger. They are going to rely on Nick Foligno improving on his 25 goals from a year ago. Sean Bergenheim should get 2<sup>nd</sup> line duty but the Yotes really need him to follow his NHL breakout with a similar performance in the cphl. Youngster Magnus Paajarvi and tough guy Ben Eager will battle for spots on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines.

## Right Wing

A major area of concern for the Coyotes. Eric Fehr leads the way; Fehr tallied 31 goals last year in Carolina, but is likely going to be hard pressed to duplicate those numbers again. Teddy Purcell and veteran Owen Nolan are in a battle for spots on the middle 2 lines. The 4<sup>th</sup> line spot will go to either Adam Mair or Liam Reddix but neither one can be counted on for any production.

## Center

The Yotes have lots of depth down the middle. The group is led by veteran Jason Arnott who scored 27 goals a year ago. The club returns leading scorer Valteri Filppula, the Coyotes would be happy if the Filppula even comes close to his 34 goals and 81 points from a year ago. Newcomer Shawn Horcoff is an excellent addition to the 3<sup>rd</sup> line, he may push Filppula for 2<sup>nd</sup> line minutes. There is an interesting battle for the 4<sup>th</sup> line center job. Both Steve Reinprecht and Jerred Smithson are in the running for the spot. Reinprecht returns after a 58 point season while Smithson is an excellent penalty killer.

## Defense

With no superstars on the blue line, the Yotes will rely on a defense by committee approach. They currently have 8 defensemen on the roster and can put together a fairly solid top 6. The group is anchored by veteran Pavel Kubina and Eric Johnson. Kubina had 32

points while Johnson scored 44 points and that number should increase. Ian White and Laddy Smid are likely the 2<sup>nd</sup> pairing, the duo is a solid combination, White is known for his booming shot while Smid likes to play things safe. The bottom pairing is likely going have rookie Travis Hamonic paired with Anton Babchuk. I think it's safe to say that Babchuk will get lots of time on the power play and Hamonic might get time on the pk.

## Goalie

There is a three headed horse between the pipes in Phoenix. The Coyotes need one of Deven Dubnyk, Sergei Bobrovsky or Brian Elliot to step-up and take control of the #1 spot. If no one steps up expect a rotation between the pipes.

## AHL Callups

There is not much waiting in San Antonio right now. Gilbert Brule, Ryan O'Marra and Kyle Chipchura are the likely call ups if there are injuries up front.

## Season Outlook

The Coyotes will be hard pressed to make the playoffs again this year. Without a top winger on either side of Arnott it is hard to see where the goals are going to come from. Phoenix will likely be in a lot of close games this year because they have a solid blue line.

## Around The League

"Is going to be in tough to score more goals than his goaltending tandem lets in. Doubtful that they will find the SIM magic from last year." **GM Hesla of the Capitals**



# Pittsburgh Penguins



**GM: Jeff Young**

## Left Wing

Superstar sniper Daniel Sedin will get his points, of that there is little doubt. Wirey Wayne Simmonds plays like a 5 year old on sugar snacks; he is all over the place and bumps into everything. Questions surround the remaining two wingers: will Erik Cole play a full season and provide the Penguins with a much needed power game and can Ethan Moreau's leadership abilities give an edge in the final standings...time will tell.

## Right Wing

The right side is lead by shifty American All-Star Patrick Kane and defensive specialist and proficient penalty killer Jordan Staal. Look for these two individuals to make standout plays at important moments all year long in completely opposite scenarios; Kane can control a game offensively while Staal will control it defensively. The talent on the right side doesn't end with the previously named individuals; Vesteras, Sweden native Patrik Berglund will see his share of top 6 minutes as well as powerplay time and can contribute significant offense while being reliable in his own end. Travis Moen might chip in offensively while checking the opposition's top players.

## Center

Offensive kingpins Henrik Sedin and Anze Kopitar pilot an extremely talented crew of centres. In game action, who does the enemy play their top checkers against? It's likely not relevant as it's a matter of shutting down one of these star players and hoping the other plays a disinterest game. If successful shutting down the Penguins' top centres, the hope is that prolific 2 way centre Tomas Plekanec doesn't hit the score sheet while checking his foe's top players. While forth lines are battling, young dangler Jordan Eberle is likely to find himself on national sports broadcasts on a weekly basis with highlight reel goals and energetic flair.

## Defense

The Penguins are definitely a front loaded team as the defense is young, inexperienced, and lacking true championship talent. It's plain to see that GM Young is counting on the puck to be in the offensive end for most of the game. Dustin Byfuglien and Alexander Edler are hard hitting, big bodied, offensive defenseman who will be allocated the majority of the defensive minutes. Both will be counted on to provide offense and instill fear and doubt in the minds of the opposing team's forwards. There is a sizeable drop off in talent after the top two defenseman. Josh Gorges, Niklas Grossman, and Niklas Hjalmarsson, are all functional defensive defenseman who are not likely to contribute offensively but will not be liabilities either. PK Subban is definitely the a key cog; will he play like a top defenseman which everyone knows he is capable of, or will his emotions get the better of him and cripple his play? Rafael Diaz and Mike Weaver are waiting in the press box if any of the above defenseman don't produce.

## Goalie

Carey Price could see 70 games this year for the Penguins and if the offense falters, they are going to need him to play at a high level in each of his starts as the defense currently does not have any top shut down players. The only knock on Price is his lack of experience which may play a factor in the Penguins post-season hopes. Backing up Price will be competent netminder Peter Budaj who will give the Penguins a chance to win in most games he plays.

## AHL Callups

Lars Eller, Max Pacioretty, and Luke Adam are all call-up hopefuls and their play in the AHL will determine who gets the call if injuries or poor play persists in the CPHL.

## Season Outlook

This dynamic offensive squad has the potential to win it all or fold under the pressure and completely miss the playoffs. The forecast remains the same despite the huge turnover that happened over the summer. Even though the Penguins have added a few pairs of old balls, can the high end talent and depth overcome the overall lack of leadership and experience? The jury is still out. A conservative opinion on the matter would see the Penguins finish anywhere from 4 to 8 in the Eastern Conference standings.

# San Jose Sharks



**GM: Ryan Maguire**

## Left Wing

The Sharks have an excellent combination of veteran presence, youthfulness, size, speed and skill on the left side entering the season. Scott Hartnell returns after 66 points in 69 games with the Sharks last year. Vaclav Prospal is in for top 6 minutes and the Sharks are looking for 25-30 goals from the veteran winger. Youngsters Derrick Brassard and Michal Frolik will push for more ice time and are great depth for the Sharks.

## Right Wing

San Jose has 2 great young right wingers to build their franchise around. Bobby Ryan scored 25 goals a year ago and is on the verge for 35 or 40 goals a season. Dustin Brown plays a solid all-around game and is the captain of the Sharks. Sergei Kostitsyn is expected to improve on his 13 point season while 4<sup>th</sup> line winger Jordin Tootoo is reckless and hits anything that moves. Patrick O'Sullivan adds depth in case of injuries.

## Center

Andy McDonald enters as the Sharks #1 center. He scored 35 points and 86 points with the Islanders last season. Little Joe returns as the 2<sup>nd</sup> line center, Pavelski will likely improve on his 60 point season. Marcel Goc enters as the 3<sup>rd</sup> line center but he will likely be pushed by Mark Letestu.

## Defense

Veterans Adrian Aucoin, Eric Brewer, Hall Gill, Dennis Wideman and Ron Hainsey anchor the Sharks blue line. Throw in young star Luke Schenn and you have an excellent blue line in San Jose.

## Goalie

The Sharks return their goaltending duo from a year ago. Jimmy Howard

asserted himself as a legitimate number 1 goalie. Howard appeared in 75 games last year and the Sharks need veteran backup Andrew Raycroft to be more consistent when called upon.

## AHL Callups

If the Sharks need to make any call ups, the first 2 likely to get the call are Nik Zherdev and Brendan Mikkelsen.

## Season Outlook

The Sharks are deep in all areas and are a top 4 team in the Western Conference.

## Around The League

"Should compete for home ice, but in tough to win the division." **GM Hesla of the Capitals**

"The Cinderella run ended with a finals loss last year and this years team looks better then last year. Not many superstars but well-rated players that should help the Sharks grab a playoff spot in a tough Western Conference." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# St. Louis Blues



**GM: Curtis Sim**

## Left Wing

On the Left Wing they have Kotalik, Marco Sturm, and Stephane Vellieux. The team would be luck if they got a take away from Kotalik, a shot from Sturm and anything from Vellieux. Horrible line up top to bottom on the LW and cannot expect third liners to play and perform on the top two lines. This is part of the "rebuild". On the farm, there is more depth on the LW. Again like the center position the AHL rivals the CPHL team. They have the services of Paul Biznasty, John McCarthy and Stefan Meyer. They all project to be depth guys and no offensive potential.

## Right Wing

Right Wing is a lot better for the Blues than LW. With names we recognize this time in Chuck Kobasew, J.P Dumont, Trent Hunter and Boyd Gordon. Again, nothing special here as the Blues plan on using depth players in key situations. Dumont will be their top line player and beyond that it is slim pickings and wouldn't even be depth players on most teams. Peoria Rivermen, have some good forwards in Hensick, Samson, Repik and Jake Hansen. The Pro team for once doesn't have a lineup that could lose to the AHL squad. Repik, Hensick and Samson can all make a bid to play on the CPHL team if injuries strike or they have a hole to fill.

## Center

The St. Louis Blues to put bluntly are horrible at center position. However, this is part of their plan so I guess they are doing very well? The lineup has no depth or skill. The most skilled player arguably is Kyle Wellwood. Beyond that there is Rupp, Mitchell, Ebbett and Hanson. None of these players are good enough to stick with a pro team with big roles. One could argue, the AHL Center position is better than the CPHL team. The Peoria Rivermen have the services of T.Johnson, Greg Nemisz, James Sheppard, Casey Wellman, Robby Czarnik and Andy Miele who is tearing the College

Ranks in hockey. A lot of potential on the AHL squad and we still wait to see how they develop.

## Defense

The Blue line for St. Louis Blues is a veteran laden one. With names like Souray, Vandermeer, Salo, Redden, Bergeron and Lebda their lineup isn't as bad as the other positions but for the money they are spending they are getting pennies on the dollar. Salo if stays healthy should be able to handle top line minutes. Beyond that it will be a Defence by committee system.

## Goalie

The goalies are the strongest position for the Blues with starting Goaltender Pekka Rinne and backup Ray Emery. Emery should get a handful starts because the team is "trying to see what he can bring to the table". In the AHL two bonafide starters duking it out for the AHL starting duties in Matt Climie and Chad Johnson. However, their potential isn't greater than a back in the NHL or a third string goalie. Anders Nilsson the youngest goalie in Peoria should be able to learn lots from Climie and Johnson.

## AHL Callups

On the AHL they have enough dmen depth with 8 signed blueliners. With the likes of Bartulius, Valabik, Ellington, Chris Butler, Matt Toarmina, Anton Blomqvist, Corey Fienhage and Sena Acolaste – they have a few dmen that are close to being depth guys on the CPHL team and a few guys that still need time for more experience. Chris Butler would be the closest to being CPHL ready, followed by Matt Toarmina.

## Season Outlook

GM Sim's last full-season resulted in a championship with the Habs, this year will be anything but that. The Blues have a long season ahead of themselves but are on the right path with super GM Curtis Sim.

## Around The League

"The Blues are just bad, bad as in old Sharks bad."  
**GM Schum of Flyers**

# Tampa Bay Lightning



**GM: Drew Siewert**

## Left Wing

Two players will battle it out for time on the top line: Michael Ryder and Ray Whitney. Although he's almost the big 4-0, Whitney can still produce and has the experience to know what it takes to win. Pascal Dupuis joins the LW depth, while Airdrie native, Dana Tyrell, is sure to be a favorite of GM droopydrew.

## Right Wing

Daniel Alfredsson will start the season on the top line, manning the right side of the ice. Under his wing, Alfie will take Rhett Rakhshani. The American spent four years playing college hockey before moving onto the pros and he now might be ready to make the jump. Oh...and how about this, Rakhshani is of Iranian-German-Mexican-American descent. Plus, his name is a broadcaster's dream! The Lightning still need to add a RWer before the season gets under way.

## Center

Tampa Bay will turn to the experience of Saku Koivu as their top line center. Although he is nearing the end of his career, the Finn has proved he can still be productive. Next in line: Tanner House and mega-pest and mega-annoying Maxim Lapierre.

## Defense

The Lightning will be counting on Francois Beauchemin to play 25-27 minutes a night, while also being a mentor for some of the younger blueliners coming through the ranks. Joining Beauchemin in the top four will be Matt Gilroy, Bryan McCabe and Andy Sutton.

## Goalie

Corey Crawford will take the reins this season as the starter in between the pipes. However, having veteran Jose Theodore on the

bench is never a bad thing. He has the experience to help Crawford and can be counted on to make a big save in crucial situations.

## AHL Callups

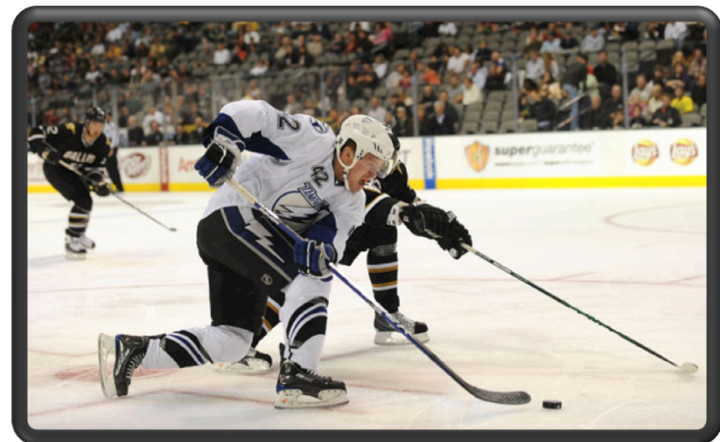
Tampa Bay's AHL squad includes a number of players that could find themselves on the big club this season: Colten Teubert, Jhonas Enroth, and Colton Gillies. They also have some nice goaltending depth with the aforementioned Enroth and former World Junior standout Martin Jones. Angelo Esposito will also be suiting up for the Admirals. Will that kid ever play in the NHL? I'll never get the image of his devastated face on draft day back in 2007. But that's another story...

## Season Outlook

GM droopydrew still has a bit of work to do before the start of the CPHL regular season, as the roster still has some holes in the forward ranks. It will be a year of experiments for this club, as any success will lie solely in the hands of two players on the tail ends of their respective, but very successful careers.

## Around The League

"I honestly expected much more from GM Drew this off-season in order to improve his club but didn't see much, the team still has way too many holes and will be in very tough to compete for a playoff spot." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Toronto Maple Leafs



**GM: Jack Sreekumar**

## Left Wing

James Neal and Clarke MacArthur will be depended on to produce a significant amount of points for this season. They can defiantly provide that and will get the minutes to show the CPHL. Jannik Hansen and Rostislav Olesz are good in their own zone and will get some PK minutes.

## Right Wing

There is some boom/bust guys on the right side for the Leafs this year. Nicklas Bergfors, Guillaume Latendresse and Benoit Pouliot were all highly touted prospects at one point but have never got it together. The Leafs are hoping that these guys turn into what they were supposed to be. Maxim Mayorov will fill in at 4<sup>th</sup> line but will be there only because he has to.

## Center

PM Bouchard and David Legwand will be nice options for the rebuilding Leafs. GM BagoPucks will need to manage their minutes throughout the season because it is a significant drop off on the bottom 6 with John Mitchell and Nathan Moon (who?). Look for GM BagoPucks to possibly address this need.

## Defense

Again, because they are rebuilding on paper it does not look good but there is some potential there. Cody Franson, and Ryan Wilson will be the future on the defense that will learn from Mark Streit this season. Marc-Andre Bourdon, Nathan Guerin and Richard Petiot decided to all get matching tattoos on their foreheads that say "score on me" so most of the opposition will live by that when these guys are on the ice.

## Goalie

A little something now and a little something to look forward to this season for the Leafs. Dwayne Roloson thought he was dreaming when GM BagoPucks offered him a 9.99 million dollar deal and had to take it and run. He will be a nice trading piece to a team that is fed up with its goaltending. The future looks bright with Michael Neuvirth waiting in the wings. The Leafs will need him to challenge Thomas Vokoun for playing minutes in Washington this season in the NHL.

## AHL Callups

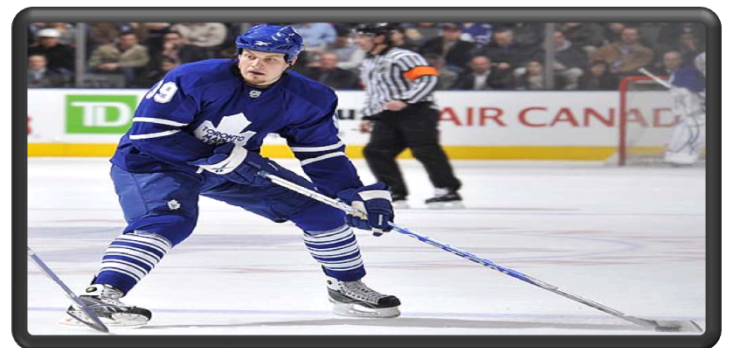
With a rebuilding team there will be some nice call ups that will get some time with the big squad this year. Stefan Della Rovere, Paul Thompson, Casey Czikas, Matthew Correnete and Justin Falk will probably see some time on the big squad this season.

## Season Outlook

It won't be pretty this season for the Leafs once again but at least they have their 1<sup>st</sup> round pick. Look for the team to continue to stock-pile on prospects and they have some nice trade bait to get them. They should be able to take a step forward in comparison to the previous year but will still be looking in from the outside.

## Around The League

"GM Sreekumar expects this to be a long season but he is putting pieces into place that will help him succeed not too long from now. The team took a big blow when the NHL Capitals signed Vokoun which will hamper the development of Micheal Neuvirth."  
**GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Vancouver Canucks



**GM: Sandra Prusina**

## Left Wing

David Backes (70) will be relied upon to put up points and provide a two-way presence for the top line. Justin Williams (67) should provide secondary scoring while Lauri Korpikoski (64) is a solid 3rd line winger. Greg Mauldin (56) currently sits as the 4th line LWer. An upgrade on the 4th line would help with depth in case of injury.

## Right Wing

Devin Setoguchi (66) will be given a chance to put up points as the top line RWer for the Canucks. Chad Larose (64) and Matt D'Agostini (63) will trade off as the 2nd and 3rd line right wingers, while Cody McLeod will provide toughness to the 4th line. Setoguchi is going to be shouldering the bulk of the RW offense and will need to put up similar number to last season (when he was a top 15 CPHL scorer).

## Center

Nathan Horton (70) and Travis Zajac (69) provide a good 1-2 punch down the middle and will be relied upon to drive the offense in Vancouver. Erik Christianson (63) is a lock as the 3rd line center, while Tom Pyatt (58) will play limited minutes in a 4th line role. A trade to bring in a mid 60 center would really boost the depth.

## Defense

Thomas Kaberle (70) and Brian Campbell (69) is a top pairing that is a dynamic offensive threat, but may be shaky defensively. Tom Poti (64) and Randy Jones (62) will need to play well as the second pair. Freddy Meyer (60), Mark Fistric (59) and John Erksine (60) will battle it out for the bottom pairing. The addition of a couple defensive dmen would really round out the team.

## Goalie

Antti Niemi (82) is a bonafide #1 goalie in the CPHL and will have to play that way

for the Canucks to do well. Mike Smith will serve as a serviceable back-up. Look for good numbers from Niemi this season.

## AHL Callups

Blair Jones (56), Yan Stastny (55) and Anders Lindback (72-G) will be the injury call-ups.

## Season Outlook

The Canucks are solid, but unspectacular up front. They are weak on Defense, but Niemi should make up some that deficiency. If the GM makes a few moves to shore up the defense and offensive depth they should be a playoff team that may push Colorado for the #2 spot in the division. Prediction: 3rd in the Northwest and fighting for the number 8 playoff spot.

## Around The League

"The Canucks have an under-rated team, they could surprise a few folks and end up in the playoffs. However they do need to upgrade couple positions to be truly considered a playoff contender, they are coming around though." **GM Schum of the Flyers**

"GM Mango has quietly built a solid line-up for the Canucks. Anti Niemi will be the focus in goal, and should be able to shoulder the load. The forwards look good with some young talent as well as roleplayers. The defence isn't porous by any means, but might be the weakest of the positions." **GM Lough of the Predators**



# Washington Capitals



**GM: Aaron Hesla**

## Left Wing

Washington has a couple scoring line options on the left side: Martin Erat and Tuomo Ruutu. Erat scores in bunches and it can be frustrating dealing with a streaky player. If Erat is having a cold spell, GM Hesla will be able to pop Ruutu on the top line. From there, one of the best names in hockey, Mats Zuccarello-Aasen (say that a few times really quick....), will be looking to make his NHL mark.

## Right Wing

Mike Fisher will get the chance to show he is a true top line talent for the Capitals. Mr. Carrie Underwood is a reliable and can play both ends of the ice. A player to keep your eye on is Mikhail Grabovsky. Coach McLellan may give him some time on the top PP unit to see how skilled he really is. One of Richard Park and Radek Dvorak might see some time in the press box this season, as RWer Torrey Mitchell finds a regular spot in the starting lineup.

## Center

The Capitals boast some solid depth down the middle. Paul Stastny will start on the top line, while Rich Peverley and Brooks Laich could take turns anchoring the second line. Rounding out the centermen is Rob Niedermayer. Although the game may have passed him by in recent years, he can be counted on for some key faceoffs and experience in the dressing room.

## Defense

The top four will be made up of Joni Pitkanen, Niklas Kronwall, Fedor Tyutin and Marek Zidlicky. That's one of the best bluelines in the CPHL. Henrik Tallinder and Jason Garrison round up the corps nicely.

## Goalie

Tim Thomas may have an unconventional playing style, but he's one of the best goalies in the league. A lot of Washington's success this year will be in the hands of the American netminder. Thomas Greiss is waiting in the wings, but will only see cleanup duty if needed and a few starts to give Thomas a rest.

## AHL Callups

The Hershey Bears will be led by 36-year-old Todd White. He and his 6 million dollar plus salary will probably spend all of the season in the minors. In terms of injuries, the Caps have a number of players they can call up, including Dan Fritsche, Jordan Hendry and Tim Kennedy.

## Season Outlook

With one of the best backends in the CPHL, the Capitals will be a very hard team to score on. They have a nice balance of players and depth to not only do well in regular season, but make a nice run in the playoffs. As long as Thomas is in goal for Washington, the sky is the limit.

## Around The League

"The Caps almost pulled off a stunning upset in last the years playoffs versus the Flyers but came up a bit short so GM Hesla went after and fixed the depth issue that became the eventual downfall last year. He's put all his marbles into this year and really wants to make a run to unseat the top Eastern teams. A very likely candidate for the GM of the Year Award next year if the Caps have any kind of playoff success. **GM Schum of the Flyers**



# Winnipeg Jets



**GM: Nick Fleehart**

## Left Wing

Winnipeg's top line will be anchored by Alex Tanguay. The playmaker should be able to make things happen and is poised to have a strong year, regardless of his linemates. When Tanguay has the puck, it looks like it is on a string and he'll be able to dish out to the likes of Bryan Little and Brad Marchand. The Jets will also be hoping for a solid season from David Booth. When healthy, Booth can be a 30 goal scorer.

## Right Wing

Tyler Bozak should have the chance to start on Winnipeg's top line this season. From there, either Jason Chimera or Ian Laperriere will find themselves on the second line. A player to watch is Roman Wick. He could certainly make his mark. He's got the size to make things happen and despite his large frame, he rarely takes stupid penalties.

## Center

Bryan Little and Brad Marchand may play musical chairs on the top line. Another player that could find himself next to Tanguay on the scoring line is Frans Nielsen. The Dane is one of the most underrated players in the league.

## Defense

Veteran Jaro Spacek will anchor Winnipeg's blueline this season in the CPHL. He will be counted on to play some big minutes. Matt Greene will also be key in the club's success. The 28-year-old will be counted on in a number of situations. Roman Polak will find himself playing top four minutes this season.

## Goalie

Winnipeg looks to be going with a 1A/1B tandem of Martin Biron and Dan Ellis between the pipes. Biron can be a streaky player and the change of scenery for

him might be the difference maker. He's signed to a bargain deal and could prove to be the best signing of the off season.

## AHL Callups

The Jets have a number of players in the minors that will be ready to make the jump: Benn Ferriero, Erik Gustafsson, and Stephane Da Costa. Tim Brent is starting the year in the minors for Winnipeg, but will be one of the first callups. You can also bet the organization has their eyes on goalie Scott Wedgewood. The Ontario native might have a chance to make the Canadian World Junior Team.

## Season Outlook

The main issue for the Jets this season, other than their questionable uniforms, will be who plays on the top line with Tanguay. GM nickerjones may have to do a whole lot of experimenting and shuffling of lines in the pre-season and into the regular schedule. The club will also be looking to the likes of Booth, Bozak, Polak and Little to take the next step from being "solid" to being "great".

## Around The League

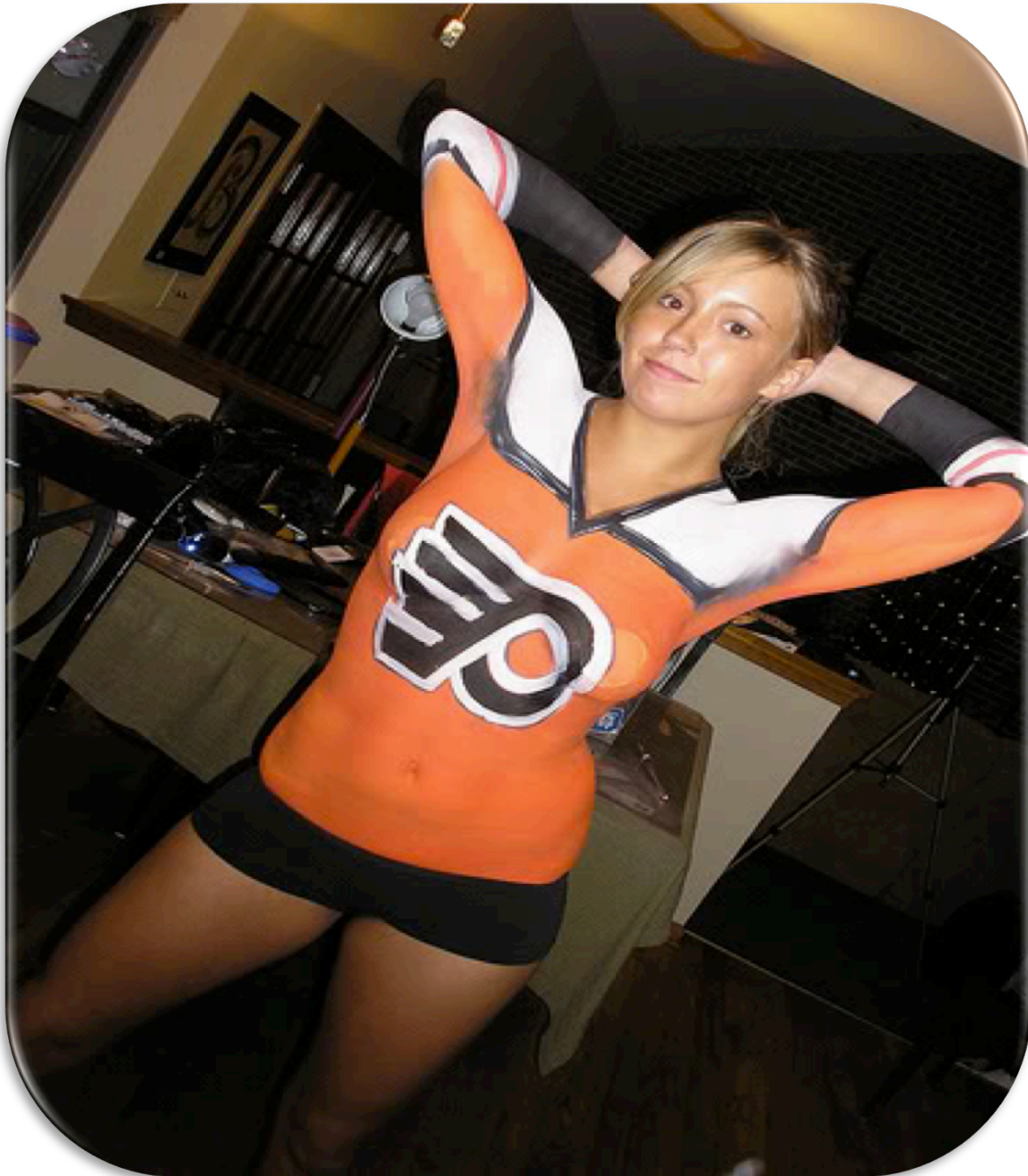
"If I'm not wrong then the Jets franchise have the longest running playoff streak in the CPHL but that will come a halt this year. The Jets blew up their team and are staring a long re-build. GM Fleehart will continue to make moves in order to get the roster he likes but it might take a while before it becomes competitive." **GM Schum of the Flyers**



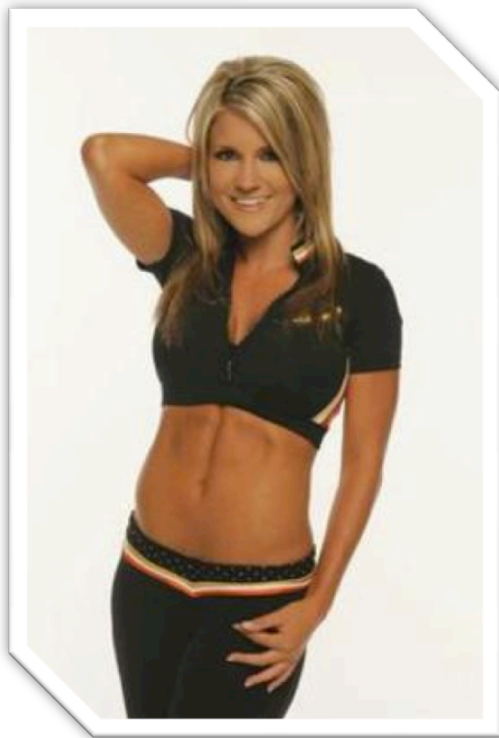
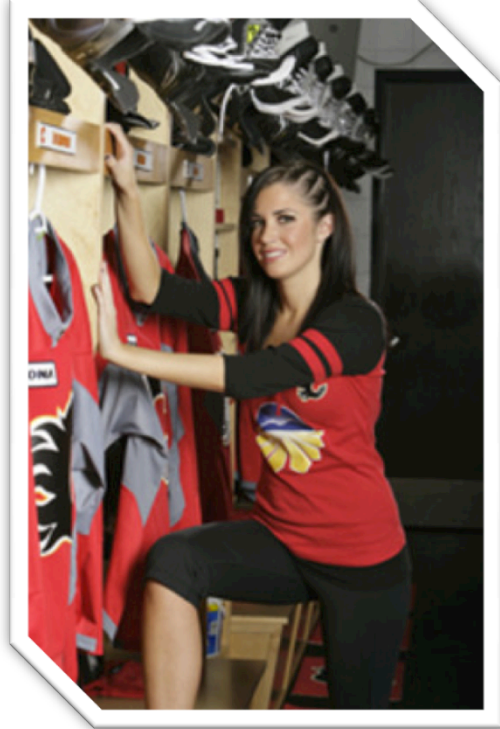
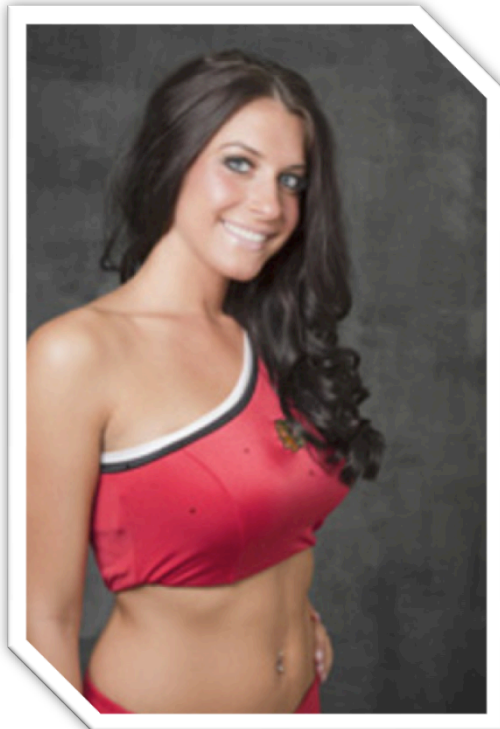
# Eye Candy

Cuz I'm sure you're tired of reading

Don't worry Sandra theres something for you at the end







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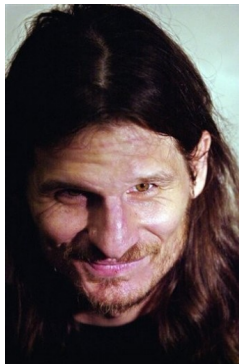


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Just for Sandra...



Enough! Back to reading...

# Prying Open the CPHL Third Eye

By Dave Penney AKA MJK

## The Big Bang

Why is the CPHL so great? The answer is simple: The people. Without solid, dedicated GM's the league would be nothing more than a message board with no messages and games simmed every other night or whenever someone got around too it. We in the CPHL are lucky because not only do we have a solid core of GM's but we also have a solid front office to sim games every night, manage the forum and do countless hours of leg work that is needed to run a successful league. There is a reason why the CPHL has a reputation of being one of the very best sim hockey leagues and there is nothing indicating that it will slow down anytime soon. And this is coming from a guy who was once fired by the league, but that's a different story to be told at a different time.

Out of an explosion of ideas the CPHL was born. There is a lot more to the CPHL than what we currently live and breath. There is a history. For many, that history starts with a much younger Cheese, transplant99 and Fire back in 2001.

## The Wayne Gretzky Conference

Eddie Shore Division	Punch Imlach Division
 Farm Teams	 Farm Teams
 Farm Teams	 Farm Teams
 Farm Teams	 Farm Teams

The Original roster page format and couple of the old division names

Cheese writes:

*"Myself, transplant99 and Fire were all part of another Fantasy League in 2001. That league was poorly run and I thought we could do a better job creating and running our own. I ran the idea by transplant99, who had got me into the other league through the old Fire on Ice board, and we talked to Fire about assisting us with getting the site online. transplant99 talked to*

*Bingo about the league and he gave us permission to join CalgaryPuck with this new game.*

*We began in earnest to develop the game in late 2001 with myself creating all of the web pages, transplant99 creating the rules and Fire getting everything on the backend ready. We were ready to roll in early to mid summer of 02 and looked at various ways to get the league rolling. In the end we divided all of the players into groups, Star Players, Offensive and defensive, plugs, Offensive and Defensive dmen and simply drew them out of a hat for each team. In the end we thought that each team was fairly balanced and it was time to open it up to the CP public. We posted the opening of the league online and within less than a day had over 70-80 applicants. We took the first 30, asked each GM to provide a top 3 list for each team they desired and divided up the teams. Many of the initial GMs arent even around CP any longer, unless they have changed their nicknames. Guys like Johnny Smith in NJ, THunter in Montreal, Cowperson in Chicago and speeds in Edmonton (our first hoarder) were first on board with the new league. Once the league got online trading was fast and furious. GMs had specific players in mind and Im sure transactions that September were greater than at any other time in the league.*

*Out of all the intial GMs only looooob remains as a player who has been involved in every season. Radically Red was the only other GM who had been involved from day 1, but he has recently left.*

*Many of CPs famous posters have been involved at one time or the other, as mentioned we have had Cowperson, THunter, transplant99, CaptainCrunch, FlamesFanFromBC, Displaced Flames Fan, icarus, HelloHockeyFans, Lanny MacDonald, Maritime Q-Scout, McRee, and of course Johnny.*

*Many came on with great bravado, and many left after being humbled by the difficulty and time this game presents. We have had GMs play from all corners of the world, China, Japan, Scotland, Finland, England and the USA and there have been a number of the fairer sex play as well, Mango being the longest serving member with Becky being a close second.*

*In the beginning all of the leagues pages were changed manually, there were no databases to assist us with updates. It took a gargantuan effort to maintain the site, especially the first few years with all of the trades, the first draft and other transactions. Fire took it upon himself to automate the site in late 2003-2004ish and since that time the league has stood on its own as the best Fantasy GM game on the internet.*

*Literally thousands of leagues have come and gone, yet*

*the CPHL remains and that is due in part to its strong beginnings and literally hundreds if not thousands of hours of thought and sweat poured into the game.*

It is because of these efforts that we still have the CPHL and it continues to be a great league to this day. Every GM should know how this game was created and should never forget how important it is to so many people. Keep in mind, it is a game that takes time to play and patience to be good at. But the fact that so many people put so much time and effort into proves just how fun it is to be a part of.

**Mango Writes:**

*When I first got my team, it was the summer of either 2002 or 2003. I was given the option of a couple of teams and I ended up taking the Vancouver Canucks. As a Flames fan, I hated the Canucks. And to make matters worse, I had failed to read the entire CPHL rules or look at the rosters before picking a team because I thought I was getting the NHL version of the Canucks. I figured they were one of the up and coming teams in the NHL and had the best line in hockey with Bertuzzi, Naslund and Morisson. Little did I know that I was getting a CPHL Canucks squad that barely had enough players to ice a shiny team.*

*That summer, I needed to fill the roster quickly and I remember making ridiculous offers on some UFAs. Some names that stick out in my mind are Wes Walz, Radek Dvorak and Roman Cechmanek. Walz...I play soccer with his cousin right now on my women's team. Dvorak stayed on my roster for years and Cechmanek was a story himself.*

*That following season, he was loved by the sim and ended up winning a bunch of trophies, including CPHL MVP and I believe he took me to the second round of the playoffs. His ratings weren't anything stellar, but he was so sim friendly.*

I think most GM's have had a Cechmanek at one time or another, an average rated sim player who exceeds expectations. You don't have to look any further than last year's St. Louis Blues to find several examples of this. That's one of the great things about the CPHL, you just don't know from year to year who will be a sim stud or who will be a sim dud. Alex Ovechkin has always underachieved and played well under expectations in the sim. His ratings are the best so why does he struggle? It's a question that has been asked over and over and while Ovechkin finally seems to have found a home in Minnesota, Grant is now left to figure out just how to get him

going. Although having Sid the Kid to help never hurts.

There are many stories to be told of the CPHL because it does have a rich history. It's an ever changing game but one that has seen many changes and improvements over the years.

**Looooob writes:**

*"When the CPHL first started, we were assigned teams that, I think, had about 12 guys on them. I remember having Lidstrom, Erik Brewer and Kenny Jonsson. I also had Belfour who was super expensive so I cut him. I remember having crappy forwards, Brad May, Wade Belak, and of course Ruslan Fedotenko...*

*Back then we didn't know players rankings so the world was very mysterious. We also had to populate the rest of our team with free agents (including AHL and ECHL), my decision was to overspend on a franchise young goalie, D and Forward...I picked Mika Noronen, Dan Hamhuis and Jamie Lundmark. Wicked.*

*Of course in the old days of the draft, we drafted after the NHL. That led me to do stupid things like take Kris Chucko. I like the new way better.*

*In the early days, Cheese always dominated and then he left teams decimated, nevertheless, the rules would constantly change to try and limit his dominance. On the other hand, rules often randomly changed for no reason. One year I made a bunch of deals that left me in the awesome position of having tons of cap room that no-one else had-- just when the wicked trades were going to start rolling in, presto, all teams were given a bunch of free cap and I just sucked.*

*The years of the agents was an occasional gong show as well...*

*Highlights for the Sabres include winning the cup, Mike Green's 2 Norris trophies and statistical dominance from Ziggy Palffy and Vaclav Prospal as well as CPHL allstar (TM) Grant Marshall. Its fun when random guys like Grant Marshall dominate the CPHL for no reason."*

The stories are great and there are many more to be told. The history of the CPHL is an interesting one but one that not a lot of GM's are aware of. The CPHL has had it's ups and down's over the years and there are a lot of great stories that have come out of it.

## The Wonder Years

Mango writes:

*"There are a few moments I'd like to mention. The first was when a fellow GM signed one of my players to an offer sheet. I think Trevor Daley was 22 or 23 at the time and his ratings weren't that great. It caused major drama in the league, because offersheets were taboo. It was considered going behind the back of the GM if you did that. There was just an unwritten rule that you weren't supposed to do that. This all happened before the NHL drama between Lowe and the Ducks for Dustin Penner. I ended up letting Daley go to the Ducks of the CPHL, who signed him to a three year 5 point something million dollar deal. I, in turn, ended up getting five first rounders. They brought me the likes of Zajac and Setoguchi, whom are still on the roster. So it's neat to see how that trail worked.*

*Another moment happened in 2004 when a bunch of the GMs got together during the lockout and went to a Calgary Hitmen game. It was the first time I had met any of the GMs in person. I think one GM brought some of his friends and one of them was dared to eat about 20 jalapeños from a nacho platter all at once for like \$5. The names escape me, but I do remember it being very funny.*

*I also remember hearing second hand stories of GMs betting players and cap space during games of pool. I wasn't directly involved in this and this was before the Cheese rule was implemented, but I think one GM ended up willing like 10 million in cap space because I won a game of pool."*

There are many stories to be told by the GM's of the CPHL; stories that some wouldn't believe. Some stories are now folklore because they have been passed down from GM to GM for many years. There have seen lots of rumors, mysterious exists, forum meltdowns and interesting personalities. From Pointman's Russian connection to Beerfund's rival ranking. From Johnny Flame's 'fart' to BJ's awesome-wicked trade offers. From The CPHL Rumor Guy to The\_Jerk. From Becky's famous 'EEEEK' to Goffies often mentioned 'lard'. All personalities help make up the CPHL which, in turn, create some great stories to be told.

## What's Winning Got To Do With It?

What constitutes a good CPHL team? Is it CPHL top rated talent or high end prospects? Is it a balance of youth and vets or does the sexy factor come into play? Whatever makes up a good CPHL team depends on how you define the term 'good'. For me it means you have a solid organization from top to bottom with a bit of everything. Having players with high trade value always allows you to flip assets until you find something that works. A poll of the CPHL GM's determined what 5 teams were thought highly of and kudos to those GM's who have garnered the attention of their peers in this capacity.

CPHL GM's were asked to vote on which team they would most likely want to take if they had to pick all over again. The top 5 teams selected are all great teams with a lot of talent and solid prospects. Organization depth all around seems to be the hallmark of a great team. Some great teams struggle and some exceed expectations. But no matter how you slice it, GM's work hard and spend countless hours perfecting their trade. Some GM's have other scratching their heads wondering what the heck they are doing (see Florida Panthers 2010) and some just take credit for what others have done (see Arlo 2011). Some are in over their heads and their team crumbles around them. Some make trade quick and build fast. There are no GM guidelines to follow so GM's are left on their own to decide what they want to do. About 80% of the new GM's fall into a trap of 'rebuilding' because it's the cool thing to do. Some GM's do this when they get a team like the Flyers or the Penguins because they just don't like the players on the team. This is OK but it only usually takes about 2 months before they realize they should have just stayed the course

Points	Player	Year	PTS
1)	Jarome Iginla (Edm)	2005-06	122
2)	Zigmund Palffy (Buf)	2004-05	116
3)	Vaclav Prospal (Buf)	2003-04	115
4)	Marian Hossa (Min)	2005-06	114
5)	Peter Bondra (Bos)	2002-03	113
6)	Milan Hejduk (Car)	2004-05	112
7)	Glen Murray	2003-04	111
-)	Sergei Samsonov	2005-06	111
9)	Alexei Kovalev	2002-03	110
-)	Jaromir Jagr	2002-03	110

CPHL Record book, most points in a season

and worked on winning. That is what most of us are in the CPHL to do, to win and gain the respect of our fellow GM's.

Let's take a look at the top 5 teams in the CPHL and how they breakdown.

### #1 Minnesota Wild

With 25% of the overall vote, the Wild were selected as the most desired team in the CPHL. What does the Wild have that would make so many GM's want that team? The answer is simple; a wicked mixture of superstars and top bluechip prospects.

When asked about being voted #1 Grant had this to say:

*"The votes were pretty spread out...but it is nice. I thought Pittsburgh would take the #1 slot."*

It has taken several years but Grant has managed to build the type of team that most GM's strive for only to run out of patience on. With the likes of Crosby, Ovechkin and Malkin up front and a solid young D, his team looks to compete every single year. He will be starting the year without a legit #1 goalie but that wasn't even enough to deter GM's from selecting his team. Considered the most important and difficult player to trade for, the goaltender position is somewhat of a question mark in Minnesota. You throw in a legit goalie and this poll wouldn't have been close IMO. When all the bluechip prospects are factored in, Grant has the ability to obtain any player in the league if he wanted them bad enough. Only time will tell if his solid team can win without a goalie and rebound from missing the playoffs last year but there is no doubt that the majority of the league identifies and respects what a solid overall organization he has built and kudos to him for that.

When asked about missing the playoffs, Grant said:

*"Crappy. First time it happened for me in the CPHL since I took over the Wild. My team was humming along for the first half, and then I ran into some injuries on the blueline which caused a long losing streak. Even once I got healthy I couldn't get thing rolling again, even though I had a soft schedule down the stretch. I think the sim's MO rating played a big role in my team missing out. Learning how this sim works is a big part of the game now."*

But it wasn't always that way. There was once upon a time when the Wild were a favorite trading partner of MJK and the Panthers. GM Grant made quick decisions that usually played in the Panthers' favor as MJK was able to build a horrible Panthers team and take them to first place in the league. But something happened along the way. The quick, lopsided trades slowed and GM Grant took a LOT more time making decision. This turned out to be bad news for MJK and the rest of the vulture GM's but really good for Grant as he started to build a great team from top to bottom. Patience has paid off for him and although Grant might not see it that way, that is how I saw it from my perspective. He became smarter, wiser and now that he is almost as old as Cheese, also grew some grey hairs. With all of that aside, Grant is actually a very cool guy, really down to earth and is not afraid to go out for beers with former GM's (some very handsome but somewhat unpredictable) and showed why he makes a great commish and is respected by so many in this league. Well done sir.

Organizational Strength: Superstar names and top prospects that carry a lot of value

Organizational Weakness: Goaltending

### #2 Pittsburgh Penguins

GM Goffie joined the CPHL way back in 04-05 on the recommendation of GM MJK (formerly out of Florida). Goffie took over the worst team in the CPHL that year (22W-58L-6T) but immediately went to work to build it back up.

Goffie says:

*"The team was old, had no youth and was still in the cellar of the league. My first hope was to somehow trade for a couple of players I liked and gradually make the team better."*

Some gems on that Penguins squad included Valeri Bure, Trent Klatt and Mike Dunham. Of course, Goffie brought Saku Koivu right away like the true homer he is. But that was then, and this is now, and what a difference only 6 years makes. The Penguins have been considered a top team for many year but one that has always come short of expectations. Last year, the Penguins didn't even make the playoffs even though they had a stacked team. Was it the coach? Is it the players? Some might think it is the GM. Rumor has it that GM Goffie will stick with it one more year to see how

he team does but if they struggle again, it might be his last as a GM in the CPHL.

Goffie says:

*"I was pretty ticked off when I didn't make the playoffs, not so much the fact that I didn't make it, but moreso that I had one of the best teams on paper and I made trade after trade to try and get better and nothing worked."*

Goffie's current 2011-12 team has a bit of everything; superstars, sisters, a solid blueline, a legit #1 goalie and a boat load of top bluechip prospects who are ready to play but who Goffie has been extremely patient with.

There is no doubt that the Penguins are due for a Championship and the fact that Goffie has been able to keep a strong core of players together and always be under the cap is nothing short of amazing. The league obviously thinks he has a great organization but will that translate into wins this year? We'll soon find out.

**Organizational Strength:** Top notch organizational depth.

**Organizational Weakness:** A really hairy underachieving GM who keeps trading for Habs players.

### #3 Anaheim Mighty Ducks

What a shocker, a team filled with NHL Calgary Flames gets picked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most desired/valuable team by CPHL GM's. Was it because the Ducks have Iggy, Kipper, Glencross, Giordano and almost every Flames prospects OR is their another reason? I think it is safe to say that it is a bit of both. Yes the Ducks have the top Calgary Flames but Ravi has also done a fine job bringing in some uber talented players as well like Steve Stamkos, Ryan Getzlaf, Shea Weber and Drew Doughty. It is a team that should compete every year but much like the Wild and the Penguins last year, the Ducks missed the playoffs!

Ravi writes:

"Last year was a massive disappointment. However, the fact that I was not higher then the 9th seed over the course of the final 30 games made missing the playoffs a little more bearable as I was never really in a position to make them. I made probably 50+ trades and no matter who

played the team still lost. In fact it lost to some garbage rosters which was even more frustrating. The sim destroyed us last year and we are hoping it is a little more realistic this coming season. Missing the playoffs blows and we hope to never have that happen again."

What happened? It seems obvious that the 2010-11 version of the sim didn't take kindly to top rated teams in general and punished them by making them golf while many other teams were busy battling it out for the playoffs. However, instead of going crazy, Ravi has kept his team together and is looking forward to the 2011-12 season. He mixed up his team a little bit and added Stamkos and Getzlaf who should help settle things down. I think most GM's expect the Ducks to make the playoffs and contend for the conference title.

**Organizational Strength:** The best NHL Calgary Flames

**Organizational Weakness:** A GM spending too much time performing open heart surgery rather than performing the necessary operation to fix his team and get them into the playoffs!

### #4 Philadelphia Flyers

With a payroll currently exceeding \$100mill, the Flyers always mean business. Their philosophy is to win no matter what the cost. So when the Flyers led the league last year in points but then didn't come away with the cup, some were surprised. This year the Flyers are poised to try and repeat their regular season success but will want to follow that up with a solid playoffs. However, who's to say that the Flyers won't be this year's version of the Wild, Pens or Ducks? What really sets the Flyers apart from those teams? It seems to be a stacked top 9, rolling equal playing time and using a sound defensive system on his top unit. That's what the Flyers did last year. Will the CPHL see that again this year?

**Organizational Strength:** Excellent older vets who know how to win

**Organizational Weakness:** A ton of money invested for a current non-winning product. Flyers need to win and that's a lot of pressure.

### #5 Montreal Canadiens

The Habs just missed out on the #4 spot and might have tied it up if Arlo was still around to vote. Simmer built a great team there and they are coming off their 2<sup>nd</sup> championship in a row. Backed by the likes of Ryan Miller, the Habs still have a solid foundation and can be competitive for many years. They have some great young players like Jonathan Toews and solid prospects.

**Organizational Strength:** A winning attitude and an elite goalie

**Organizational Weakness:** Arlo



The Habs last year became the first back-to-back champions

The top 5 most desired / valuable CPHL teams show just how far some of these teams have come. For many year the Wild were in the middle of the pack but with great patience and a keen knack for trading, Grant has made them #1 in the eyes of his peers. The Penguins were taken from the basement to the top of the league in only a couple years. They have always been a competitive team and Goffie has shown that you can build a strong team and keep it in tact for many years. The Ducks, Flyers and Habs are all great teams and any 5 could win the cup this year. Instead of just a couple teams dominating the league there are many that could put up a fight and pull an upset. Look no further than the San Jose Sharks last year who had great sim chemistry and did well all year long. Who will win the cup this year and will it be one of the top 5 teams?

The CPHL has a great mix of GM's from all over. Some have been around a long time and some are

brand new just getting their feet wet and having their trades rejected by the league for the vesy first time. It takes time to understand value in the CPHL and that seems to be the key for being a successful trader. Knowing what a player's current value is and understanding if he is a rising or depreciating asset. Patient GM's with an excellent knowledge of player value are always the one's to build strong teams. Unfortunately building those teams doesn't always translate into success.

Mango writes:

*"There's an amazing blend of GMs right now. Everyone has their own niche and it's very impressive. Some GMs love to trade, while others are more involved in the imaging/graphics side. Others are heavy posters, while there are some that provide comedic relief. And GMs keep raising the bar...I could rave on and on about how amazing this summer's UFAs went. I was excited to see who won and for how much a player was signed for. That has a lot to do with how it was presented...through the separate website and the amazing graphics. Thanks to those kinds of things, the CPHL is very special. Although we are all different, I think we can agree that we are all very passionate about hockey. That's nothing to be ashamed of!"*

Looooob writes:

*"I like the current CPHL, I wish I could be more of an online presence, but for me the team represents an important part of my limited down time. I think all the current GMs are smart-- probably too smart."*

From the big bang through to the wonder years, the CPHL has grown by leaps and bounds. It will continue to evolve and improve. The league is welcoming back the Winnipeg Jets this season and it seems that everyone is ready to get going. The offseason has been an interesting one and the draft was the best and most organized it has ever been. We have solid leadership in the CPHL front offices who are extremely dedicated and there is no doubt that a league as good as the CPHL would not be able to exist if it wasn't for them. However, it takes a solid core of GM's to make the league run and although I have been in the CPHL a long time, this is the best I have ever seen it.

# Interviews

BY: VICTOR LOUGH

Heading into the season and looking to for something a little different than the usual "predict the standings" kind of thing we embarked on a few GM interviews. This was to get a little more insight into what GMs think about their opponents, and in a lot of ways gives a little insight into why we play the game. Who do GMs most want to beat? Who do they have rivalries with and what kinds of things would they say about their rosters? It was fun asking the questions and the answers were not all what I would have expected. Thanks to the GMs who took part. There are a few that I would've liked to have reached, but perhaps we can do something partway through the season when the teams have been at each others throats a little bit!

I talked to a few GMs about their rivals, and teams that they wanted to beat. For Washington it was Philly and Pittsburgh...maybe no surprise there. I did think it was funny that he would be most embarrassed to lose to either St. Louis or Colorado though "...because I have to listen to him yammer on after." Meanwhile in the West our candid Colorado GM couldn't tell me which teams would be the most embarrassing because "...that question is under the assumption that I'm going to lose a game, so next question please." You have to give him credit; he was politely refusing to answer!

Its going to be interesting in the west though because our trusty LA GM predicted that he "...will finish first, without a doubt, there aren't any other top teams in the West." He was also candid when talking about teams he

would like to beat in the playoffs saying Columbus "...would really make my day." He continued with a bit of a disclaimer though: "But the problem with that is they would have to make the playoffs. If they don't that would be just as satisfying." The author agrees! (couldn't resist!)

I asked all of the GMs interviewed whether they had some kind of "no trade policy" with teams that were rivals, based solely on rivalry. I thought that maybe there would be some friendly competitive barriers here that might pop-up, but no GM I talked to put that out there. Every one (to their credit) said in one way or another that they would deal with all of the teams.

I did ask the GMs which teams they would be most embarrassed to lose to, and notably no one said Nashville. I think that they were sparing my feelings? I also wasn't able to interview MJK, which might have changed things! So who did they say? Either teams that were rivals or in one case Tampa and Winnipeg....those two teams must be really pathetic!

Lady and Gents, this was a really fun project. I actually wish I could've done more of a survey with all of the GMs, or had the time to interview more of you. I should note that I tried to ask somewhat leading questions and the GMs played along pretty well. If you get your back up about anything they said here then just think twice. It's a fun league and I cherry picked the answers here to bring out what I thought was the most amusing and would be the best to read. Thanks again to the GMs for their cooperation!

# Odds

Team	Odds To Win (x/1)	Odds To Finish Last (x/1)
Montreal Canadiens	3	50
Philadelphia Flyers	3.5	45
Anaheim Ducks	4.5	45
Pittsburgh Penguins	4.5	40
San Jose Sharks	7	40
L.A. Kings	7	38
Washington Capitals	8	33
Chicago Blackhawks	8	33
Minnesota Wild	9	25
New Jersey Devils	9	23
Colorado Avalanche	10	23
Columbus Blue Jackets	10	20
New York Rangers	11	20
Detroit Red Wings	13	20
Dallas Stars	14	18
Ottawa Senators	18	14
New York Islanders	20	13
Boston Bruins	20	11
Carolina Hurricanes	20	10
Florida Panthers	23	10
Edmonton Oilers	23	9
Buffalo Sabres	25	9
Phoenix Coyotes	33	8
Nashville Predators	33	8
Calgary Flames	38	7
Tampa Bay Lightning	40	7
Atlanta Thrashers	40	4.5
Vancouver Canucks	45	4.5
Toronto Maple Leafs	45	3.5
St. Louis Blues	50	3

## Win Money

You have \$50 and till the start of the season to come back in this thread and spend your \$50 any way you want to spend it (betting on these odds of course)

Top 3 earners will win cap for 2012-2013

# Awards Prediction

**The Gary Suter Award** - *An annual award "to the defenceman" who demonstrates throughout the season the greatest all-round ability in the position as voted by the general managers of all CPHL clubs.*



In the NHL they have a man by the name of Nicklas Lidstrom whom has dominated his position and ranks amongst the best to have ever played, here in the CPHL, that player would go by the name of Mike Green. Mike will go on to win his 3rd consecutive Gary Suter Award with ease gaining 60% of the votes (as usual). His all offence and disregard for the defensive zone type of play was tailor made for fantasy hockey, and year after year Mike has proven to deliver and bring home the trophies.

**The Mike Vernon Award** – *An annual award given to the goalkeeper adjudged to be the best at this position as voted by the general managers of all CPHL clubs.*



One of the most unpredictable awards to foresee as the nature of the position is just so intense that many goaltenders can not maintain the high level of play required. One save and you're local home town hero and the next minute your parents are being run out of the building with thunders boo's from irate fans. In the previous three seasons not one goalies name has appeared in the top three goalies twice. Ryan Miller will look to change that as he backstops the two time Stanley Cup Champions on route to his first Vernon Award that will have fans lobby to rename the Molson Center to the Miller Arena.

**The Sergei Makarov Award** - *An annual award given to the player selected as the most proficient in his first year of competition in the CPHL as voted by the general managers of all CPHL clubs.*



The Makarov Watch will be the most hyped rookie race since Ovechkin/Crosby as Jack Skinner and Matt Duchene battle it out. Skinner will eventually lose out in the points race throughout the course of the season but by year end he will have cemented his stake and walk away with the hardware in the eyes of the voters. Duchene's downfall is that his play will be overlooked due to playing in the shadow of elite line-mates. A dark horse will be diminutive winger Tyler Ennis if he's able to capture SIM lightning and steal the award away from the two deserving stars.

**The Coach of the Year Award** - *An annual award given to the coach selected to be the best CPHL coach of the regular season as voted by the general managers of all CPHL clubs.*



Much to the delight of Penguins GM, Paul Maurice will lead the Penguins not only back into the playoffs but re-establish the team as the powerhouse it has been billed on paper for years. With the removal of their two cancers in the dressing room Maurice will now be able to lead the team and play strong two-way hockey where accountability is more important than individual "legacies". With the focus back on hockey and team play the Penguins will flourish under Maurice's guidance.

**The Lanny McDonald Award** – *An annual award given to the player judged to be the most valuable to his team as voted by the general managers of all CPHL clubs*



After collecting the Makarov award in his Rookie season, Already the darling of the CPHL, Stamkos will go on and score over 60 goals this season as he continues his swagger and lights up the CPHL much like a young Mike Bossy did for the New York Islanders during the late '70's early '80's. He will play on the high octane line with Jarome Iginla and Ryan Getzlaf, that will give nightmares for the GM's in the Western Conference and will force drastic changes for rival teams to keep up.



# Standings Prediction

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	RANK	SAY WHAT?
	1	Can the superstars co-exist?
	2	Can the NHL Flames play the CPHL?
	3	Can they wait for young guys to develop?
	4	Can they repeat the Cinderella run?
	5	Can the leadership win more games?
	6	Can Nash and Spezza create magic?
	7	Can the mixture of old and young win games?
	8	Can they play like 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of last year?
	9	Can the centermen hold up over a long year?
	10	Can the Defense hold up?
	11	Can they get enough rated players to play?
	12	Can they repeat the magic from last year?
	13	Can Backstrom win 50 1-0 games?
	14	Can you name 5 players on this roster?
	15	Can they surprise GMs who predicted them here?

# Standings Prediction

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

TEAM	RANK	SAY WHAT?
	1	Can they get three in a row?
	2	Can the 100+ million dollar payroll deliver a cup?
	3	Can they overcome game 7 loss of last year?
	4	Can they live up to the hype?
	5	Can they finally breakthrough and earn a playoff spot?
	6	Can they keep the playoff streak going?
	7	Can Pavalec play well enough?
	8	Can the depth overcome lack of superstars?
	9	Can Lundqvist do it again?
	10	Can the lone Staal overcome the trading of his brothers?
	11	Can anyone score on this team?
	12	Can anyone name 3 guys on this roster?
	13	Can the prospects win enough games?
	14	Can you name 1 guy on this roster?
	15	Can Neuvirth continue to develop?

# Finals...Your Say

If Pittsburgh can find some links to move guys to the wing, they have to win it, defeating the Ducks. Finding links will be the problem... Berglund, Hanzal, Kopitar, Plekanec, H. Sedin are all natural centres.

*Pat Faith – Avalanche*

Kings have a good mix of young talent and EX/LD and I don't think anyone has the mix I do and Capitals because of the goaltending and defensive depth – *BJ Blanchard – Kings*

On paper Philly and Minny have the most firepower. I fully expect Grant to find a goalie, but it will be tough to find one better than Ward on the market. Therefore I put Philly over Minny for the championship.

*Aaron Hesla – Capitals*

Flyers Vs. Ducks with Ducks winning the Cup. *Curtis Sim – Blues*

Minny and Philly cuz they have ugly colors, 7 games and no one will win because the Sim breaks down.

*Dayel Peterson – Flames*

Philly is all about depth. 2 lines of elite talent and a very very good 3rd line. D is among the top if not the best in the league. one of the top goalies. Coach is a hack though. Anaheim has 2 elite goal scorers with a couple great playmaking centers. Bottom 6 should be able to shutdown/out perform most bottom 6 in the league. Defense is very mobile and offensively minded. overall a deep, great skating club with an elite goalie.

Philly wins. *Robb Pittman – Stars*

I'll take Philly out of the east, good talent top to bottom, very balanced roster, and solid depth at just about every position. Out West I like Anaheim, top 2 lines are great, 2nd line could pass for a 1st line on a lot of teams. Good defensive depth, strong goaltending. Anaheim to win the cup, little more talent at the bottom for the edge over Philly. *Brandon Maier - Oilers*

Well that is all!

Don't forget to use up the \$50!

Post your comments and what you liked and didn't like.

More than 1/3 of the league was involved in this project. Please make sure to thank all involved, this took a lot of time.

**Enjoy the season and good luck!**