

FANTASY HOCKEY DRAFTOLOGY 2009

A collective presentation of:
**FANTASYDRAFTHelp.COM, THE FDH LOUNGE,
 SPORTSOLOGY & CARD CORNER CLUB**

September 20, 2009

Rick Morris/Jason Jones/Russ Cohen/Jon Waldman

Containing all of the fantasy — and non-fantasy — material you will need for NHL '09-10!

FantasyDrafthelp.com Draft Philosophy: You Win By Obtaining Value With Every Pick!

We at FantasyDrafthelp.com always emphasize the wisdom of our VIP approach to drafting: information and process lead to value. Of course, value is the single most important component of drafting or auctions. Even in the fantasy industry, this point is often overlooked. In most cases, titles are won by patiently accruing value throughout a draft or auction. During the Information stage, fantasy owners compile information about players at individual positions. Process involves comparison of players across all of the positions.

We put a tremendous amount of hard work into our draft board, and you do also. As such, you need to trust the fruits of these labors and adhere to your draft board as much as possible. The surest way to be able to extract maximum value is to prepare extensively ahead of time and then refrain from jumping around on the board on Draft Day. Approach the draft with an actuarial mindset, determined to squeeze maximum value out of every pick, and you will be poised for success.

Draft Board Decoder

The FantasyDrafthelp.com draft board contains all the relevant information you need right at your fingertips.

* Players are color-coded by their value by round in a 10-team draft. 1st round is gold, 2nd round silver, 3rd round bronze, 4th round orange, 5th round light blue and 6th round light green.

* The "Stat" column shows how each player performed on our standard deviation from the mean statistic in 2008-09 (stat details on Page 2).

* Relevant 2008-09 statistical categories are listed, along with rankings for each, the number of games played and rankings in the aforementioned "Stat" category. Also, dollar values are listed for the benefit of those in auction leagues.

Top 60 Players Regardless of Position

1 Alexander Ovechkin	31 Ilya Kovalchuk
2 Evgeni Malkin	32 Niklas Backstrom
3 Sidney Crosby	33 Dan Boyle
4 Ryan Getzlaf	34 Sergei Gonchar
5 Alexander Semin	35 Steve Mason
6 Corey Perry	36 Brian Rafalski
7 Zach Parise	37 Scott Hartnell
8 Henrik Zetterberg	38 Joe Thornton
9 Pavel Datsyuk	39 Daniel Sedin
10 Jeff Carter	40 Henrik Lundqvist
11 Bobby Ryan	41 Marc-Andre Fleury
12 Mike Green	42 Vincent Lecavalier
13 Mike Richards	43 Simon Gagne
14 Jarome Iginla	44 Mike Cammalleri
15 Roberto Luongo	45 Cam Ward
16 Marian Hossa	46 Jonathan Toews
17 Rick Nash	47 Olli Jokinen
18 Nicklas Lidstrom	48 Henrik Sedin
19 Nicklas Backstrom	49 Jason Spezza
20 Evgeni Nabokov	50 Daniel Alfredsson
21 Marian Gaborik	51 Dion Phaneuf
22 Martin Havlat	52 Martin St. Louis
23 Patrick Kane	53 Sheldon Souray
24 Zdeno Chara	54 Shea Weber
25 Martin Brodeur	55 Andrei Markov
26 Tim Thomas	56 Jamie Langenbrunner
27 Marc Savard	57 Shane Doan
28 Eric Staal	58 John Tavares
29 Mark Streit	59 Johan Franzen
30 Dany Heatley	60 Miikka Kiprusoff

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Goalies

Player	Exp	\$\$	UQB	Rk	GP	W	Rk	GAA	Rk	Sv%	Rk	SO	Rk
1Roberto Luongo	2T	23	354	4T	54	33	9T	2.34	6	0.92	5T	9	2
2Evgeni Nabokov	5T	21	334	4T	62	41	2	2.44	15T	0.91		7	4T
3Martin Brodeur	1	21	278	17	31	19		2.41	11T	0.916	14T	5	10T
4Tim Thomas	2T	20	359	2	54	36	6	2.1	1	0.933	1	5	10T
5Niklas Backstrom	4	18	358	3	71	37	5	2.33	4T	0.923	4	8	3
6Steve Mason	10T	17	360	1	61	33	9T	2.29	3	0.916	14T	10	1
7Henrik Lundqvist	8T	16	303	11	70	38	4	2.43	14	0.916	14T	3	17T
8Marc-Andre Fleury	5T	16	283	14T	62	35	7	2.67		0.912	24T	4	13T
9Cam Ward 1X	7	16	330	6	68	39	3	2.44	15T	0.916	14T	6	6T
10Miikka Kiprusoff	8T	15	283	14T	76	45	1	2.84		0.903		4	13T
11Ryan Miller	13	14	307	9	59	34	8	2.53	21T	0.918	9T	5	10T
12Pekka Rinne	10T	14	321	7	52	29	13T	2.38	8	0.917	11T	7	4T
13Tomas Vokoun	12T	13	312	8	59	26	17T	2.49	19	0.926	2	6	6T
14Carey Price	14T	12	210		52	23	23T	2.83		0.905		1	
15Chris Mason 2X	14T	12	304	10	57	27	16	2.41	11T	0.916	14T	6	6T
16Chris Osgood	16	9	183		46	26	17T	3.09		0.887		2	
17Cristobal Huet	12T	9	245	22	41	20		2.53	21T	0.909		3	17T
18Nikolai Khabibulin	17	8	284	12T	42	25	20T	2.33	4T	0.919	7T	3	17T
19Marty Turco	18	8	235	25	74	33	9T	2.81		0.898		3	17T
20Ray Emery	20T	7	NA		NA	NA		NA		NA		NA	
21Jonathan Quick		6	266	19	44	21		2.48	18	0.914	23	4	13T
22Jonas Hiller	24	6	284	12T	46	23	23T	2.39	9T	0.919	7T	4	13T
23Mike Smith	25	5	228		41	14		2.62	25	0.916	14T	2	
24Kari Lehtonen	20T	4	212		46	19		3.06		0.911		3	17T
25Simeon Varlamov	19	3	207		6	4		2.37	7	0.918	9T	0	
26Ilya Bryzgalov	22	2	226		65	26	17T	2.98		0.906		3	17T

Evaluating Production Across a Spectrum: Lessons of our Proprietary Ultimate Quantitative Baseline Stat

Our “UQB” category (Ultimate Quantitative Baseline) on our draft board calculates the standard deviation from the mean in all relevant hockey categories. In simple English, imagine a spectrum going across from left to right, with negative numbers on the left side, a “zero” in the middle and positive numbers on the right side.

We utilize this statistic for football, baseball, basketball, hockey and NASCAR as well as hockey. For hockey, we use all of the standard fantasy categories listed on the draft board to factor in for this statistical compilation.

A player’s performance in each category is plotted on one of these spectrums, with the most valuable players putting up most of their numbers on the most of their numbers on the positive side. Then, we add up the totals of every category, positive and negative. By using this tool, we can identify not merely how they performed, but how valuable their performances were in each category. Truly, this statistic serves as the ultimate baseline for the previous season’s production.

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Centers

Player	Exp	\$\$	UQB	Rk	GP	G	Rk	A	Rk	P	Rk	PIMin	Rk	PIM	Rk
1 Evgeni Malkin	1	30	327	1	82	35	5	78	1	113	1	17	14	80	5
2 Sidney Crosby	2	30	307	2	77	33	8T	70	2	103	2	3		76	7
3 Ryan Getzlaf	4	27	292	5	81	25	21T	66	3T	91	4	5		121	2
4 Pavel Datsyuk	3	25	302	3	81	32	10T	65	5	97	3	34	2	22	
5 Jeff Carter	6	25	287	7	82	46	1	38	21T	84	8	23	5T	68	9
6 Mike Richards	9	24	280	10	79	30	13	50	12	80	10	22	7T	63	12
7 Nicklas Backstrom 1X	8T	22	268	12	82	22		66	3T	88	5T	16	15T	46	
8 Marc Savard	5	19	289	6	82	25	21T	63	6	88	5T	25	4	70	8
9 Eric Staal	7	19	254	17T	82	40	2	35	25T	75	12	15	19	50	24
10 Joe Thornton	8T	17	269	11	82	25	21T	61	7	86	7	16	15T	56	16
11 Vincent Lecavalier	13	16	219		77	29	14T	38	21T	67	19T	-9		54	17T
12 Jonathan Toews	10	16	238	24	82	34	6T	35	25T	69	18	12	22T	51	23
13 Olli Jokinen	11	16	205		76	29	14T	28		57		-12		67	10
14 Henrik Sedin	12	16	266	13	82	22		60	8	82	9	22	7T	48	
15 Jason Spezza 2X	16	16	223		82	32	10T	41	18	73	13T	-14		79	6
16 Johan Franzen	14	15	258	16	71	34	6T	25		59	25T	21	9	44	
17 Derick Brassard	21T	14	299	4	31	10		15		25		12	22T	17	
18 Daniel Briere		14	282	8	29	11		14		25		-1		26	
19 Phil Kessel		13	254	17T	70	36	4	24		60	24	23	5T	16	
20 Tim Connolly		13	281	9	48	18		29		47		12	22T	22	
21 Steven Stamkos	25	12	166		79	23		23		46		-13		39	
22 David Krejci		12	261	15	82	22		51	10T	73	13T	37	1	26	
23 Patrick Marleau	15	11	250	20	76	38	3	33		71	16	16	15T	18	
24 Jason Arnott	19	11	246	22	65	33	8T	24		57		2		49	25
25 Mikko Koivu	18	11	230		79	20		47	13T	67	19T	2		66	11
26 Steve Ott 3X		11	263	14	64	19		27		46		3		135	1
27 Travis Zajac		7	239	23	82	20		42	15T	62	22	33	3	29	
28 Mike Ribeiro	17	7	229		82	22		56	9	78	11	-4		52	20T
29 Paul Stastny	24	6	212		45	11		25		36		-9		22	
30 Derek Roy	21T	5	212		82	28	16T	42	15T	70	17	-5		38	
31 Nathan Horton	23	5	200		67	22		23		45		-5		48	
32 Ryan Kesler		4	218		82	26	19T	33		59	25T	8		61	13T
33 Scott Gomez	20	3	210		77	16		42	15T	58		-2		60	15
34 T.J. Oshie		2	235	25	57	14		25		39		16	15T	30	
35 Jamie Lundmark 4X		2	252	19	27	8		8		16		2		17	

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Left Wings

Player	Exp	\$\$	UQB	Rk	GP	G	Rk	A	Rk	P	Rk	PIMin	Rk	PIM	Rk
1Alexander Ovechkin	1	30	325	2	79	56	1	54	1	110	1	8	21T	72	9
2Alexander Semin	6	26	335	1	62	34	9T	45	8	79	6T	25	3	77	7
3Zach Parise	2T	26	295	3	82	45	2	49	5	94	2	30	1	24	
4Henrik Zetterberg	4	26	249	12T	77	31	12T	42	10	73	12	13	13T	36	
5Rick Nash 1X	2T	22	264	5	78	40	4T	39	12	79	6T	11	17T	52	15T
6Dany Heatley	8	18	231	18T	82	39	6T	33	19T	72	13	-11		88	6
7Ilya Kovalchuk	5	18	255	11	79	43	3	48	6	91	3	-12		50	18T
8Scott Hartnell	13	17	259	8	82	30	16	30	23T	60	18T	14	11T	143	2
9Daniel Sedin	7	16	267	4	82	31	12T	51	3	82	4T	24	4	36	
10Simon Gagne	10	16	260	7	79	34	9T	40	11	74	11	21	6	42	25
11Mike Cammalleri 2X	9	16	244	14	81	39	6T	43	9	82	4T	-2		44	21T
12Chris Kunitz	14	14	216		82	23	25T	30	23T	53	24T	12	16	71	10
13Alex Burrows	18	14	258	9T	82	28	17	23		51		23	5	150	1
14Patrik Elias	11	13	262	6	77	31	12T	47	7	78	8	18	7T	32	
15David Booth	12	13	232	17	72	31	12T	29		60	18T	10	19	38	
16Brenden Morrow	16	12	NA		18	5		10		15		-4		49	20
17Thomas Vanek	15	11	231	18T	73	40	4T	24		64	14	-1		44	21T
18Ray Whitney	17	10	228	20	82	24	22T	53	2	77	9	2		32	
19Milan Lucic	19T	10	258	9T	72	17		25		42		17	10	136	3
20Loui Eriksson 3X	22	10	218	25	82	36	8	27		63	15T	14	11T	14	
21Rene Bourque		7	242	15	58	21		19		40		18	7T	70	11
22Milan Michalek	24T	7	222	23	77	23	25T	34	17T	57	22	11	17T	52	15T
23Ryan Malone		7	225	21T	70	26	18T	19		45		4		98	5
24Sean Avery		6	249	12T	41	8		14		22		6	23T	111	4
25Steve Sullivan	23	6	217		41	11		21		32		2		30	
26Jason Blake	24T	5	211		78	25	21	38	13T	63	15T	-2		40	
27Alexander Frolov	19T	5	199		77	32	11	27		59	20T	-6		30	
28Alex Tanguay		5	236	16	50	16		25		41		13	13T	34	
29Ryan Smyth		4	199		77	26	18T	33	19T	59	20T	-15		62	13
30Tomas Holmstrom		3	225	21T	53	14		23		37		18	7T	38	
31Slava Kozlov	21	3	212		82	26	18T	50	4	76	10	-14		44	21T
32Ryane Clowe 4X		2	219	24	71	22		30	23T	52		8	21T	51	17

2009 Overvalued Players

NOTE: Overvalued & undervalued players are determined by a comparison of their value on our draft board to their placement on the "experts' draft board" we consult.

Goalies: Cristobal Huet

Centers: Jason Arnott, Mikko Koivu, Patrick Marleau

Left Wings: Alexander Frolov, Slava Kozlov

Right Wings: Brad Boyes, Mike Knuble, Jason Pominville, Brian Rolston, Devin Setoguchi

Defensemen: Brent Burns, Joseph Corvo, Tobias Enstrom, Ed Jovanovski, Tomas Kaberle, Scott Niedermayer, Matt Niskanen, Jaroslav Spacek, Ryan Suter, Ryan Whitney, Marek Zidlicky

2009 Undervalued Players

Goalies: Steve Mason, Jonathan Quick

Centers: Daniel Briere, Derick Brassard, Tim Connolly, Phil Kessel, Steven Stamkos

Left Wings: Rene Bourque, Alex Burrows, Scott Hartnell

Right Wings: Ales Hemsley, Marian Hossa, Jamie Langenbrunner

Defensemen: Anton Babchuk, Kevin Bieksa, Rob Blake, Sergei Gonchar, Denis Grebeshkov, Victor Hedman, Paul Martin, Steve Montador, Joni Pitkanen, Craig Rivet, Lubomir Visnovsky

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Right Wings

Player	Exp	\$\$	UQB	Rk	GP	G	Rk	A	Rk	P	Rk	PIMin	Rk	PIM	Rk
1 Corey Perry	3	26	273	2	78	32	4	40	10T	72	6T	10	11	109	3
2 Bobby Ryan	4	25	257	4T	64	31	5T	26		57	20	13	8	33	
3 Jarome Iginla	1	24	249	6	82	35	2	54	1	89	1	-2		37	
4 Marian Hossa	12	22	290	1	74	40	1	31	21T	71	8	27	4	63	12
5 Marian Gaborik	5	21	NA		17	13		10		23		3		2	
6 Martin Havlat	9	21	265	3	81	29	10T	48	5	77	3	29	2	30	
7 Patrick Kane 1X	2	21	220	20	80	25	19T	45	7	70	9	-2		42	
8 Daniel Alfredsson	6	16	233	10	79	24	23	50	2T	74	4	7	12T	24	
9 Martin St. Louis	8	16	231	11T	82	30	9	50	2T	80	2	4	25T	14	
10 Jamie Langenbrunner	16	257	4T	81	29	10T	40	10T	69	10	25	5	56	16T	
11 Shane Doan	10T	16	243	7	82	31	5T	42	9	73	5	5	20T	72	11
12 John Tavares	13	16	NA		NA	NA		NA		NA		NA		NA	
13 Ales Hemsky	17	14	231	11T	72	23	24T	43	8	66	11T	1		32	
14 Michael Ryder	15T	13	238	8T	74	27	12T	26		53	24T	28	3	26	
15 Devin Setoquchi 2X	10T	13	228	14	81	31	5T	34	17	65	13T	16	6	25	
16 Alex Kovalev	15T	10	225	16	78	26	16T	39	13T	65	13T	-5		74	9T
17 Brad Boyes	7	10	194		82	33	3	39	13T	72	6T	-20		26	
18 David Backes	20	9	238	8T	82	31	5T	23		54	21T	-3		165	1
19 Patrick Sharp	22	9	229	13	61	26	16T	18		44		6	17T	41	
20 Brian Gionta	18T	9	213	22T	81	20		40	10T	60	17	12	9	32	
21 Teemu Selanne 3X	18T	9	223	18	65	27	12T	27		54	21T	-3		36	
22 Mike Knuble	14	6	196		82	27	12T	20		47		5	20T	62	13
23 Tuomo Ruutu	21	6	213	22T	79	26	16T	28		54	21T	0		79	7
24 Blake Wheeler	25T	5	224	17	81	21		24		45		36	1	46	21T
25 Chuck Kobasew	5	210	24	68	21			21		42		5	20T	56	16T
26 Nikolai Zherdev	5	205	25	82	23	24T	35	16	58	19	6	17T		39	
27 Kris Versteeg	4	221	19	78	22			31	21T	53	24T	15	7	55	18
28 Pavol Demitra	4	214	21	69	20			33	18T	53	24T	6	17T	20	
29 Jason Pominville	23	4	196		82	20		46	6	66	11T	-4		18	
30 Brian Rolston	24	4	179		64	15		17		32		2		30	
31 Todd Bertuzzi	3	197		66	15			29	24T	44		-13		74	9T
32 Joffrey Lupul	3	199		79	25	19T	25			50		1		58	15
33 Owen Nolan 4X	2	227	15	59	25	19T	20			45		5	20T	26	

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Defensemen

Player	Exp	\$\$	UQB	Rk	GP	G	Rk	A	Rk	P	Rk	PIMin	Rk	PIM	Rk
1Mike Green	1	25	346	1	68	31	1	42	7	73	1	24	4	68	25T
2Nicklas Lidstrom	3	22	265	2	78	16	5T	43	6	59	3T	31	3	30	
3Zdeno Chara	2	21	257	3	80	19	4	31	26	50	12T	23	5	95	15
4Mark Streit	7T	19	248	5	74	16	5T	40	9T	56	7	5	25T	62	31T
5Dan Boyle	4	17	239	10	77	16	5T	41	8	57	6	6	21T	52	39T
6Sergei Gonchar	25	17	242	8	25	6		13		19		6	21T	26	
7Brian Rafalski 1X	6	17	240	9	78	10	23T	49	2	59	3T	17	8T	20	
8Dion Phaneuf	5	15	207	23	80	11	19T	36	17T	47	15	-11		100	11
9Sheldon Souray	7T	15	237	11	81	23	2T	30	27T	53	8T	1	35T	98	12
10Shea Weber	9T	15	230	14	81	23	2T	30	27T	53	8T	1	35T	80	20
11Andrei Markov	9T	15	233	13	78	12	16T	52	1	64	2	-2		36	
12Duncan Keith	11	14	246	6	77	8	31T	36	17T	44	20	33	1	60	33
13Rob Blake	17	14	256	4	73	10	23T	35	19	45	16T	15	10T	110	9
14Scott Niedermayer	9	14	221	17T	82	14	11T	45	3T	59	3T	-8		70	24
15Dennis Wideman	12	13	244	7	79	13	15	37	13T	50	12T	32	2	34	
16Chris Pronger	13	13	214	20	82	11	19T	37	13T	48	14	0	39T	88	18
17Brian Campbell	14	13	201	29	82	7	37T	45	3T	52	10	5	25T	22	
18Jay Bouwmeester 2X	15	13	193	34T	82	15	9T	27	34T	42	23T	-2		68	25T
19Lubomir Visnovsky	34T	11	236	12	50	8	31T	23		31		6	21T	30	
20Kimmo Timonen	19	11	221	17T	77	3		40	9T	43	21T	19	7	54	37T
21Niklas Kronwall	18	10	209	21T	80	6		45	3T	51	11	2	32T	50	
22Craig Rivet		10	216	19	64	2		22		24		4	29T	125	4
23Matt Hunwick		10	229	15	53	6		21		27		15	10T	31	
24Cameron Barker	21	10	206	24	68	6		34	20T	40	26T	-6		65	27
25Kevin Bieksa	32T	10	223	16	72	11	19T	32	24T	43	21T	-4		97	13T
26Marek Zidlicky 3X	16	10	193	34T	76	12	16T	30	27T	42	23T	-12		76	21
27Alexander Edler	26T	8	195	32	80	10	23T	27	34T	37	35	11	18T	54	37T
28Steve Montador		8	205	25	78	4		17		21		17	8T	143	2
29Anton Babchuk	38	7	196	30T	72	16	5T	19		35	38T	13	15	16	
30Joni Pitkanen		7	204	26	71	7	37T	26		33		11	18T	58	34
31Bryan McCabe	32T	7	202	28	69	15	9T	24		39	29T	-1		41	
32Paul Martin		7	203	27	73	5		28	32T	33		21	6T	36	
33Denis Grebeshkov 4X		7	209	21T	72	7	37T	32	24T	39	29T	12	16T	38	

2009 Fantasy Overview

^ Goalies are deep this year, much more so than usual. Last year our top tier of goalies ran six deep and this year it's nine deep – and that's without any representation from Anaheim in there as there was in '08-09. Although goalie accounts for 50% of fantasy production in a great many leagues and as such you can't wait forever to take your top-tier goalie, you should be able to wait longer than last year.

^ As usual, centers are deeper than either wing position. The main difference from last year is that second-tier right wings are a bit deeper than their counterparts across the ice, whereas last year there was little difference.

^ Puck-moving defensemen are benefiting from post-lockout rules changes as they have since '05. A Scott Niedermayer with 59 points would almost certainly have been a top-tier D prior to then notwithstanding his -8.

^ It's pretty much the "Big 3," then everyone else at the top of the draft notwithstanding that all of them were surpassed last year on a per-game basis by a teammate of one of those three (Alexander Semin).

^ There is a definite changing of the guard accelerating as Daniel Alfredsson, Jason Spezza, Ilya Kovalchuk, Joe Thornton and Vincent Lecavalier – few of whom are that old – yield a bit to Zach Parise, Jeff Carter, Mike Richards, Bobby Ryan, Alexander Semin and Patrick Kane.

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2009 Sleepers

Johan
Franzen,
Ales
Hemsky,
Matt
Hunwick,
Jonathan
Quick,
Ryan
Smyth

Defensemen

Player	Exp	\$\$	UQB	Rk	GP	G	Rk	A	Rk	P	Rk	PIMin	Rk	PIM	Rk
34Christian Ehrhoff	36T	5	184		77	8	31T	34	20T	42	23T	-12		63	29T
35Jaroslav Spacek	28	5	193	34T	80	8	31T	37	13T	45	16T	2	32T	38	
36Pavel Kubina	36T	5	183		82	14	11T	26		40	26T	-15		94	16T
37Ryan Suter	20	5	181		82	7	37T	38	12	45	16T	-16		73	22
38Kyle Quincey		5	192	37	72	4		34	20T	38	33T	-5		63	29T
39Tobias Enstrom	26T	4	182		82	5		27	34T	32		14	13T	52	39T
40Victor Hedman		4	NA		NA	NA		NA		NA		NA		NA	
41Joseph Corvo	23	4	169		81	14	11T	24		38	33T	-1		18	
42Keith Ballard		4	194	33	82	6		28	32T	34	40T	14	13T	72	23
43Filip Kuba		4	196	30T	71	3		37	13T	40	26T	4	29T	28	
44Brent Burns	31	4	182		59	8	31T	19		27		-7		45	
45Shane O'Brien 5X		4	187	40T	77	0		10		10		5	25T	196	1
46Ryan Whitney	22	2	142		48	2		21		23		-14		28	
47Matt Niskanen	30	2	161		80	6		29	31	35	38T	-11		52	39T
48John-Michael Liles		2	161		75	12	16T	27	34T	39	29T	-19		31	
49Michal Rozsival	39T	2	162		76	8	31T	22		30		-7		52	39T
50Ed Jovanovski	34T	2	177		82	9	28T	27	34T	36	36T	-15		106	10
51Drew Doughty		2	124		81	6		21		27		-17		56	35
52Kristopher Letang	29	2	161		74	10	23T	23		33		-7		24	
53Tomas Kaberle	24	2	174		57	4		27	34T	31		-8		8	
54Marc-Andre Bergeron	39T	2	183		72	14	11T	18		32		5	25T	30	
55Mathieu Schneider	39T	2	180		67	9	28T	23		32		-12		64	28
56Cory Sarich 6X		2	186		76	2		18		20		12	16T	112	7

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Don't Be That Guy

At your draft or auction, Don't Be That Guy who:

^ Doesn't properly understand his league's scoring system. Have the specific parameters down before you go to select your players.

^ Relies on a publication such as The Hockey News that doesn't have a draft board. Can you imagine such a thing?

^ Gets caught at the tail end of a run at a position: specifically #2 defensemen should not be confused with the #1s.

^ Doesn't put enough emphasis on goal-scorers as opposed to assist-talliers. As is always the case in fantasy sports, scarcity leads to value.

Suggested League Guidelines

We recommend that you hold your auction or serpentine-style draft with 10 owners, selecting 18 players (6 defensemen, 3 goalies, 3 left wings, 3 centers, 3 right wings). In case of an auction, use a financial system that allots an average of \$11 per player.

Our preferred style of play is head-to-head roto, in which teams compete on a week-to-week head-up basis. Recommended categories are points, goals, assists, penalty minutes and plus-minus for forwards and defensemen and wins, least losses, shutouts, goals-against-average and save percentage for goalies. A rotating tiebreaker category should be utilized in the case of a 5-5 category tie. The starting lineup should consist of 2 goalies, 2 left wings, 2 centers, 2 right wings and 4 defensemen.

2009 FDH Fantasy Hockey Mock Draft

	Mike V	Jeff	Tim	Mike P	Nate	Russ	Samm	Steve	Jason	Rick
1	Ovechkin	Crosby	Malkin	Iginla	Getzlaf	Perry	Nash	Semin	Green	Datsyuk
2	Ryan	Gonchar	Hossa	Lidstrom	Kane	Carter	Chara	Lundquist	Zetterberg	Parise
3	Richards	Luongo	Nabokov	Brodeur	Heatley	Fleury	Thomas	Backstrom [C]	Gaborik	Backstrom [G]
4	Kiprusoff	St Louis	Rafalski	Kovalchuk	Ward	Souray	Phaneuf	Boyle	Mason	Havlat
5	Miller	Streit	Alfredsson	Lecavalier	R Blake	Hartnell	Rinne	Savard	Thornton	Weber
6	Pronger	Kunitz	D Sedin	Gagne	Tavares	Toews	E Staal	Price	Niedermayer	Vokoun
7	Spezza	Mason	H Sedin	Langenbrunner	Keith	Cammalleri	Bouwmeester	Doan	Jokinen	Franzen
8	Campbell	Briere	Huet	Stamkos	Kessel	Turco	Setoguchi	Wideman	Khabibulin	Markov
9	Hemsky	Selanne	Elias	Osgood	Burrows	Sharp	Visnovsky	Morrow	Kovalev	Booth
10	Bieksa	Lucic	Timonen	Kronwall	Rivet	Barker	Krejci	Backes	Vanek	Ryder
11	Montador	Zidlicky	Hunwick	Pitkanen	P Martin	Edler	Avery	Babchuk	McCabe	Grebeshkov
12	Quincey	Ballard	Enstrom	O'Brien	Emery	Doughty	Ruutu	Letang	Jovanovski	Erhoff

Here are some round-by-round notes from the proceedings:

ROUND 1: A free-for-all ensued after the "Big 3" ended up off the board — interestingly enough, there were 3 Caps, 2 Pens & 2 Ducks here.

ROUND 2: Steve's pick of Lundquist was apparently inspired by the new Willie Geist program "Way Too Early." No big surprises other than that, except perhaps for Kane going where he did after his offseason and for Gonchar going where he did, since he was the last defenseman to go for the next 14 picks.

ROUND 3: Once the goalie run started here, there would be seven teams exiting the round with a backstop. Unsurprisingly for those who know him, Nate continued stockpiling bad boys! Mike Richards was an unbelievable value here.

ROUND 4: Attention finally turned to defense in this round.

ROUND 5: Mike V waited on goalies, but then went back-to-back. Owners were busy filling in needs as players from every position were selected here.

ROUND 6: Nate rolled the dice on Tavares as a rookie.

This draft was held on September 10, 2009.

Participants were as follows:

- 1 FDH Niche Sports Contributor Mike Vili
- 2 FDH Lounge Dignitary Jeff Maslanich
- 3 FDH Lounge Dignitary Tim Foust
- 4 FDH Lounge Dignitary Mike Ptak
- 5 FDH Lounge Dignitary Nate Noy
- 6 Russ Cohen from Sportsology & Card Corner Club
- 7 FDH Entertainment Editor Samantha Jones
- 8 The FDH New York Bureau Steve Cirvello
- 9 FDH Senior Editor Jason Jones
- 10 FDH Managing Partner Rick Morris

ROUND 7: Tim ended up with both Sedins! Jason got exquisite value from Jokinen at #79 overall. Even given his weaker-than-usual '08-09, it was still jarring to see Spezza drop this far.

ROUND 8: Stamkos fell a bit further than people would have thought, probably because of the exceptionally deep pool at center and owners apparently picking for experience rather than upside.

ROUND 9: Value was perceived as being at the wings, as most teams filled their remaining needs rather than those on defense.

ROUNDS 10-12: Defense dominated as owners sifted through players with very little to differentiate at this point.

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FDH NHL 2009-10 Season Predictions

Atlantic

X-Pittsburgh 105
Y-Philadelphia 102
Y-New York Rangers 100
Y-New Jersey 91
New York Islanders 65

Northeast

X-Boston 106
Y-Montreal 97
Toronto 90
Buffalo 89
Ottawa 71

Southeast

X-Washington 107
Y-Carolina 96
Florida 87
Atlanta 81
Tampa Bay 72

Central

X-Detroit 110
Y-Chicago 107
Y-St. Louis 92
Y-Columbus 90
Nashville 83

Northwest

X-Vancouver 100
Y-Calgary 94
Minnesota 85
Edmonton 84
Colorado 73

Pacific

X-San Jose 109
Y-Anaheim 99
Los Angeles 89
Dallas 88
Phoenix 75

Stanley Cup Round One

Washington over New Jersey in 6
Boston over Carolina in 6
Pittsburgh over Montreal in 6
Philadelphia over New York Rangers in 7
Detroit over Columbus in 5
San Jose over St. Louis in 6
Vancouver over Calgary in 7
Chicago over Anaheim in 7

Stanley Cup Round Two

Philadelphia over Boston in 7
Washington over Pittsburgh in 7
Detroit over Chicago in 6
San Jose over Vancouver in 6

Stanley Cup Conference Finals

Philadelphia over Washington in 7
San Jose over Detroit in 6

Stanley Cup Finals

San Jose over Philadelphia in 6

Conn Smythe Trophy: Johan Franzen

Hart Trophy: Alex Ovechkin

Lester Pearson Trophy: Alex Ovechkin

Vezina Trophy: Roberto Luongo

Norris Trophy: Mike Green

Calder Trophy: John Tavares

Lady Byng Trophy: Zach Parise

Selke Trophy: Henrik Zetterberg

Jack Adams Award: Terry Murray

Masterton Trophy: Mike Modano

Presidents' Trophy: Detroit Red Wings

Art Ross Trophy: Alex Ovechkin

Maurice Richard Trophy: Alex Ovechkin

William J. Jennings Trophy: Roberto Luongo and Andrew Raycroft

100 Ranger Greats Prepares to Hit The Shelves September 28

They were men of skill, strength, speed, cunning and desire who brought honor to the uniform and to the team. They are the legends of yesteryear and the heroes of today and their accomplishments on the ice – and in the community – have enthralled hockey fans for over eight decades.

From Bill Cook and Davey Kerr to Mark Messier and Jaromir Jagr, the players who have made the greatest impact on the game will be assessed and accorded their special niche in a very special publication created just for New York Rangers fans – perhaps the most fiercely loyal (and opinionated) fans in all of sports.

Join authors Russ Cohen, John Halligan and Adam Raider as they profile and rank the 100 most influential players from the team's 82-year history. Upon its release, 100 RANGER GREATS will be a must-have for anyone who bleeds Ranger blue.

Keep up with all the news by checking out the blog www.rangergreats.com leave some comments and let the authors know who your favorite Ranger is. On September 28, 2009, the curtain will be lifted on the 100 RANGER GREATS.

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FDH Proposal to Restructure The NHL For The Better

This column revolves around a way to restructure the NHL season in a way to bring more traction to the league's resurgence. Many traditionalists, myself included, wish that the league could leverage more effectively the cache of the "Original Six." It is a unique legacy in all of professional sports, yet the NHL has done so little to exploit the effectiveness of it. The teams are located geographically close enough that they could form their own division – and I would use that as a starting point.

Now, ultimately, it is unwise to deviate from the six-division format that the league has in place, so I would retain that format, albeit with a four-team Atlantic Division to compensate for the larger entity. I would also move to a 76-game regular-season schedule (with a device inserted to compensate for the lost gate revenue; more about that later). Here is how the schedule would break down:

^ 4 games in-division (16)

^ 3 games in-conference (30)

^ 2 games out-of-conference (30)

Everybody would play everybody else at least once. Now, the question arises logically as to how a six-team division would play itself under this format. Answer: it wouldn't. For these purposes, the New York Rangers would play their Original Six counterparts three times apiece while playing the squads in the Atlantic Division four times apiece; hence the asterisk by the Rangers below.

Here is how the radically refashioned conference and divisional lineups would look:

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ORIGINAL SIX

Detroit

Chicago

Boston

Toronto

Montreal

*New York Rangers

ATLANTIC

New York Islanders

New Jersey

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

NORTHEAST

Washington

Buffalo

Ottawa

Columbus

St. Louis

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

SOUTHEAST

Nashville

Carolina

Tampa Bay

Florida

Atlanta

SOUTHWEST

Dallas

Phoenix

Los Angeles

Anaheim

San Jose

NORTHWEST

Minnesota

Colorado

Vancouver

Calgary

Edmonton

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 11

**Mark this date: on September 28, 2009,
the next great sports book hits the shelves.**

100 RANGER GREATS celebrates the unforgettable stars of a truly historic franchise. Many of the NHL's greatest legends skated for the New York Rangers and in this book, their exploits come alive once again! Available for pre-order on Amazon.com, Wiley.com and other online retailers. More information at www.rangergreats.com.

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liveblogging of sports and non-sports
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other wild aspects of life!**

FDH Proposal to Restructure The NHL For The Better

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

The obvious cause for concern in looking at this setup figures to be a tempest in a teapot: the fact that the Southeast and Northwest Divisions are the furthest-removed from a geographic sense and therefore might appear somewhat unwieldy in terms of cohesiveness. But all of the games to be played against one another could be fit into two extended road trips apiece per season, not a terrible price to be paid. Also, Columbus and St. Louis aren't really part of the Northeast, but they would have to fit here in order for the other highly logical divisional formats to be formulated – and surely, we've seen bigger geographical stretches than this in professional sports (Hello, longtime former NFC West inhabitants Atlanta Falcons!).

In the short run, moving Detroit and Chicago would lead to a heck of a competitive imbalance between the conferences – and would GREATLY complicate the Wings' path back to the Finals, proving the objectivity of this avid Wings fan once and for all! But moves that would otherwise benefit the game should not be judged disproportionately on their impact over a 2-4 year period, especially with the cyclical nature of the game. After all, where were the Penguins, Capitals, Bruins and Blackhawks four years ago? Restructuring of this nature demands a keen eye on the long view.

Now, as promised, the matter of how revenue from the few sacrificed regular season games could be recovered: restoration of the World Cup of Hockey as an annual event (it is slated to return in 2011). The World Cup, much like the Olympic hockey tournament, is one of the top sporting events on this globe because it offers an all-star tournament within the framework of national competition. With the league's best players suiting up for traditional powers Canada, Russia, the United States, Sweden, Finland and the Czech Republic (and Slovakia and Germany rounding out the entrants), this annual thriller would be a highlight on the entire sports calendar. In the traditional format, teams would be split into two groups and every team in that group would play everyone else in the first round of the event, thus setting the stage for the quarterfinals. If this event were hypothetically being instituted in 2010, here is what a schedule could resemble:

Tuesday September 28 through Sunday October 3, 2010: first-round games

Tuesday/Wednesday October 5-6, 2010: quarterfinals

Saturday October 9, 2010: semifinals

Tuesday October 12, 2010: finals

On Friday, October 15, 2010, all 30 teams would drop the puck for Opening Night, allowing the league to follow a timeframe similar to the present 82-game campaign.

There are aspects of this plan that traditionalists would find lacking. There are aspects of this plan that ultra-modern hockey fans would find lacking. That proves to me that this offers the best balance between appeasing the longtime hardcores and the more casual fans of today. Here's hoping that the league cares nothing about pride of authorship, because we offer this system asking nothing in return except for the game's increased relevance in the Lower 48.

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NHL2K10 (PS3) Celebrates a Strong 10th Anniversary Release

By Russ Cohen

NHL2K10 has pulled out all the stops this year in hopes of leveling the digital playing field in the hockey genre and one thing is for sure: gamers will remember this release for a long time.

The music is edgy and the game intro is perfect. You feel like it's Opening Night and then when the lights go on, you are ready to play. If you are playing at MSG, the game pays homage to the ceiling and it makes a bit of an artistic statement.

The game is nearly perfect, but the rosters are in need of an overhaul and they can be changed by you when the first update comes out; until then Ranger fans are stuck with Michael Sauer and Tyler Arnason on the starting roster. I would have put Evgeny Grachev and Bobby Sanguinetti there as a result.

Sidney Crosby and a few other players like Jordan Staal are very hard to contain because of high rankings. They did win the Cup but still. The gameplay is strong and I tweaked the camera to a zoom level of eight instead of six for what I felt was a closer-to-the-ice look. This game has no shortage of sliders, and that means you can set the game the way you like it.

The crowd noise, chants and on-ice chatter in this game is exceptional, and it really adds to the realism. Since I broadcast with XM, I get a kick out of their in-between period sponsorship and I really think the intermission highlight package is the best in the business. 2K has set the bar high in this area.

The window that shows your player coming off the bench is a big plus, especially when you are on the PK. When your guy pops out of the box, it's easy to see, and now you can get him a nice headman pass. The signature moves are spectacular and really fun to pull off. On the flip side, when you are the goaltender, they are tough to stop, but not impossible! Actually,

the goaltending animations are very solid and the faces of the players look very good.

I love playing pond hockey. The ice has a thin layer of snow on it, and that makes it realistic and fun at the same time. There are a ton of online features and franchise additions, so make sure you read my preview that covered them on the Hockeyology website.

One more tip to add: if you slow down your player in the offensive zone just before you shoot, you can draw some penalties for your team, especially if it's a star player who has the puck. Don't forget to play the Winter Classic, it's a 2K exclusive! This title is a must buy.

Platform: PS3
Publisher: 2K Sports
Developer: Visual Concepts
Release Date: NOW
Genre: Sports
Number of Players: multiplayer 1-7
ESRB Rating: 10+ (Mild Violence)
Graphics: 4.9
Sound: 5.0
Control: 4.6
Game Play: 4.8
Fun Factor: 5.0
Overall Rating: 4.86 out of 5

THE FDH LOUNGE MULTIMEDIA MAGAZINE: Nothing is off-topic

Among the hundreds of topics thus far: Karl Rove ... tunnels under Las Vegas ... Flava Flav ... Michael Vick ... the comeback of the KGB ... Summerslam ... the Big Ten Network ... Mitt Romney ... Mark Shapiro & Larry Dolan ... Sarah Palin ... LeBron James ... Ron Paul ... a Hamas boy band ... C.C. Sabathia ... Pat Robertson ... Ohio State/Michigan ... Vladimir Putin ... NFL Sunday Ticket ... Jim Tressel ... Madden '09 ... waterboarding ... Roid-ger Clemens ... NHL Winter Classic ... 2009 NFL Draft profiles ... Hillary Clinton ... all-star selections ... Juno ... hottest female cartoon characters ... Stone Temple Pilots reunion ... Bill Belichick ... Bill Clinton ... Jason Kidd ... Tony Bruno ... Chris Berman ... Chris Benoit ... Pao Gasol ... Berkeley city council hippies ... Bobby Knight ... Shaquille O'Neal ... Pistol Pete Maravich ... the Super Bowl ... Super Tuesday ... WrestleMania ... open-wheel racing ... James Dobson ... Looney Toons ... Barack Obama ... Grammy Awards ... John McCain ... NBA All-Star Weekend ... American Gangster ... George W. Bush ... the Daytona 500 ... old-school pro wrestling ... Dennis Kucinich ... Academy Awards ... Kosovo ... NBA trading deadline ... Bobby Jindal ... Vince McMahon, Jr. ... Brett Favre ... rating the greatest quarterbacks ... Floyd Mayweather ... geopolitics roundup ... timewasting video clips ... imagining Michael Scott of "The Office" moderating a presidential debate ... rating baseball's best players by position ...

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NHL10 (PS3) is The Real Deal

By Russ Cohen

When gamers make a purchase, all they want is a smooth-looking, good-playing, realistic game. If it's a sports game, they want it to feel like the real deal, and take my word for it, NHL10 will do just that! I had a chance to try this version out and really run it through the paces, and the only negatives were that the rosters need some tweaking (which can be done online) or you can trade the players yourself (they are from August and Opening Night rosters will be in the first update), no biggie. Also, sometimes the audio runs a bit behind the action, but it's very slight. That's it. Otherwise, I found the gaming experience to be most enjoyable and it's really helped to amp me up for the 2009-10 season, which is around the corner.

You'll love the intro that tells the story of last season with a few fights, some memorable shots and the Cup raising! I suggest that everybody go through the training, it's quick and helpful, and that's the fastest way to get yourself into the game. Until Colby Cohen makes his NHL debut, I'm the only Cohen in the game.

The game starts out with the players taking the ice with the lights off, just like in real life. The game-playing is simple and nearly flawless. You can play a fast and tough brand of hockey, but beware, the CPU will call a lot of penalties! I love the after-the-whistle play and the fighting is way cool!

The way you can deke really helps you fake out the CPU goaltender. But, beware, the AI is smart and it runs real plays! The goalies are free-wheeling, and they can do more than ever before. It's so much fun to make the big saves.

Deflections in the game are fantastic, and the corner play has reached new heights with the ability to pin the puck against the boards and being able to clear it or kick it to your teammate!

Players do what they are supposed to do, and they don't all play like Sidney Crosby! And if you play Crosby, hit him hard, it's your only chance.

There are eight player modes and the hockey shop allows gamers to go and get the best gear out there. It's such a great feature!

There are tons of sliders that will help you to create the exact environment that you are looking for. In-between periods the highlight and stat packages are so informative and it will really help you gear up for the next time you hit the ice. NHL10 is now out and all I can say is WOW! and I fully recommend it.

Platform: PS3
Publisher: Electronic Arts
Developer: EA Canada
Release Date: September 15
Genre: Sports
Number of Players: 1-7
ESRB Rating: 10+ (Mild Violence)
Graphics: 4.8
Sound: 4.6
Control: 5.0
Game Play: 5.0
Fun Factor: 5.0
Overall Rating: 4.88 out of 5

Multimedia Draft Podcast Link

Card Corner Club brought its peerless coverage of hockey prospects to the 2009 NHL Entry Draft. If you are viewing this guide online, you can click this link to join Russ Cohen and Jon Waldman (or if not, you can manually enter this URL into your browser) as they interview a lot of special guests, including Canadiens draft pick Alexander Avtsin, and Wild draft pick Matthew Hackett!

<http://www.cardcornerclub.net/podcast/bestofccbellcentre.mp3>

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Nine Notes From the 2009 NHL Entry Draft

Byline: Jon Waldman and Russ Cohen

In hono(u)r of Hockeyology's ninth NHL Entry Draft coverage, we proudly present this look in and around the draft floor in La Belle Province.

1 – Louie, Louie: You thought the Habs fans were hockey mad before? The celebration of Louie Leblanc was incredible. Give the new Canadian draftee credit though – he did a solid hour of post-pick interviews.

2 – Make some Noise: Whether it was cheering for the Habs at every possible point or booing Brian Burke out of the building, the Montreal faithful were louder than any draft audience we've ever seen.

3 – Isles Get Over-Anxious: Yeah, taking John Tavares Number One was good, but the Long Island folk may have jumped the gun when they traded up in the draft to select Calvin De Haan.

4 – Nikolai? Really? As always at these events, you see fans wearing...well...odd sweaters. Nothing beats a Toronto fan wearing a Nikolai Borchevsky jersey. Mothballs apparently do work wonders.

5 – The True Wild Card: Leddy goes in the first round to Minnesota, making everyone, momentarily look like a fantasy draft fool.

6 – Over-traded? Pronger goes for a king's ransom in players and picks. Hey, if Philly wins the Cup, it'll all have been worth it...right?

7 – Far-Away Ferraro: Ray's kid drops out of the first round.

8 – Cohen? Jared Cowen's video flashed his name incorrectly for a quickly for a quick moment. Immediately, Russ goes on to genealogy.com. Sadly, he was wrong, no connection!

9 – Colorado High: Could anyone have been happier going to their new club than Matt Duchene? Can't blame him, though – beautiful scenery, a young club and a good opportunity to get some endorsements in the land of the Rockies.

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Upper Deck's Preparation For Hockey Card Collecting in 2009-10

Submitted by Russ_Cohen/Card Corner Club

Carlsbad, CA (Sept. 14, 2009) – With the NHL® regular season nearly upon us, the Upper Deck Company – the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) and the National Hockey League's (NHL) exclusive licensee of hockey trading cards – is pleased to announce its plans for the upcoming 2009-10 campaign. In addition to producing the most innovative trading cards on the planet, which will include top rookie standouts – many of whom were just photographed by Upper Deck at the recent NHL Rookie Debut in Toronto including John Tavares, Victor Hedman and Matt Duchene – the trading card leader is pleased to provide details on some of its hobby-specific marketing programs.

"With an outstanding rookie class set to hit the ice, this season lines up as one of the best in recent years," said Josh Zusman, Upper Deck's Hockey brand manager. "Upper Deck's Series One Hockey, which hits in November, will be the first product to showcase the new rookies, provided they skate on Opening Night."

"NHL fans and collectors are looking forward to another solid year of both 'tried and true' brand releases and to some innovative cards from our exclusive trading card partner, Upper Deck," said Dave McCarthy, NHL Vice President of Entertainment Products. "This year's rookie class will create many exciting moments for collectors seeking to add these exclusive cards to their collections."

"As we head into the new decade, we couldn't be more excited about the momentum Upper Deck is building in the hobby industry with innovative programs that are sure to appeal to all collectors," said Adam Larry, NHLPA Director, Licensing and Associate Counsel. "The NHL Rookie Debut event was a success for everyone in attendance – especially the young players who were the stars of the show – and we know hockey collectors will be blown away by the quality when these cards hit the hobby store shelves through the fall and winter months."

Leading off Upper Deck's marketing initiatives this season will be the return of its highly successful "Biography of a Season" wrapper redemption program. Starting in November, Upper Deck's collectors will be able to receive an exclusive NHL card highlighting great moments of the current 2009-10 season with the purchase of \$5 or more worth of Upper Deck hockey cards at Upper Deck Certified Diamond Dealer locations. The program begins on November 1 with a new card distributed every week (four cards per month). A total of 30 unique NHL cards will be produced for the 2009-10 Biography of a Season trading card set.

Upper Deck will also be introducing a brand new program this season exclusive to Canadian hobby stores entitled "Upper Deck's Hockey Card Heaven." The campaign was created to encourage hobby shop owners to run various promotions and events (Trade Nights, Pack Wars, Draft Events, etc.) in their stores in order to stir up interest and foot traffic. Those hobby shops that

come up with the most creative ways to do just that will be eligible to win great prizes from Upper Deck including two "grand prizes" consisting of an athlete appearance at their store. A total of ten "first prizes" will also be doled out consisting of special tailgate parties with memorabilia, t-shirts, hats and Upper Deck hockey card products available. And picking up right where last year's inaugural "National Hockey Card Day" promotion left off, Upper Deck will repeat the trick on January 30, 2010, by providing free five-card packs to hobby shops and retail outlets throughout Canada which will be handed out to customers. Like last year, it will consist of a 15-card set featuring Canada's top rookies, stars and legends.

Getting back to the hockey card sets scheduled to be released this season, Upper Deck's lineup is sure to please. Following UD1's release in mid-November, SPx will deliver the first rookie jersey cards of the season two months later, while Collector's Choice, also launching in January, brings more fun with new kid-focused items such as NHL team tattoos and manga art illustrations. Even NHL players' stickers can be found in this season's price-friendly offering. In February, collectors should keep their eyes peeled for Upper Deck Series Two Hockey as this will complete where UD1 left off with the latest rookies and a collectible rookie swatch insert. And sliding right in with great acetate rookie cards will be ICE Hockey, which is slated to hit store shelves on February 24. And no fooling around, SP Authentic, the home of the rookie autograph, is slated to launch April 1. And serving as the ideal end-of-the-season capper to the year's biggest set, Upper Deck's 2009-10 O-Pee-Chee Update figures to light the lamp with its awesome assortment of the season's top rookies. Adding that mix to the metal parallel cards, this one is sure to go screaming off store shelves!

About Upper Deck: Upper Deck is the leading sports and entertainment trading card and collectibles company. For more information on Upper Deck and its products please visit www.upperdeck.com NHL and the NHL Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. All Rights Reserved. NHLPA, National Hockey League Players' Association and the NHLPA logo are trademarks of the NHLPA. © NHLPA

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In The FDH Lounge, nothing is off-topic. Don't believe us? Check out this partial roster of guests:

- ^ Kenny Albert
- ^ Bob Barker (TWICE!)
- ^ Brutus Beefcake
- ^ The San Diego Chicken
- ^ Chip Caray
- ^ JJ Dillon
- ^ Missy Hyatt
- ^ Al Jaffee
- ^ Miracle on Ice Captain & MVP Mark Johnson
- ^ Dhani Jones
- ^ Will Leitch
- ^ Ben Lyons
- ^ Craig Newmark from Craigslist
- ^ The Phillie Phanatic
- ^ Jeremy Schaap
- ^ Jayson Stark
- ^ George "The Animal" Steele
- ^ Tom Wilson

Random enough for you?

The FDH Lounge covers more topics than any other program on the air today. Among others:

- ^ Sports
- ^ Politics
- ^ Geopolitics
- ^ TV/Music/Movies
- ^ Pop Culture/Fun Web Stuff
- ^ Sports Entertainment

The FDH Lounge airs live every Wednesday night from 7-10 PM EDT on SportsTalkNetwork.com.

Prospects Highlight Winter Classic Jersey Unveiling

By Russ Cohen

Voorhees, NJ -- The Philadelphia Flyers showed off their new Winter Classic retro sweater, and then some of their youngsters and the Washington Capitals prospects played a game to a nearly full rink on September 11.

The Flyers rookies won 7-3, but in games like this, the score is meaningless. You have to look at the level of competition before you rush to judgment, good or bad. After watching this game, the Flyers rookies did indeed have a big leg up on the Capital youngsters.

James van Riemsdyk (2nd overall pick in 2007) was the best player on the ice, plain and simple. And to be honest, if he wanted to have a chance at making the big club, he needed to be dominant. He was just that, and he had a hat trick. His passing as always was impressive, and his drive to the net and backhand showed a lot of promise. Also understand that the level of goaltending wasn't elite.

The Caps used Braden Holtby (4th round pick in 2008) in net and even though he was terrific for the Saskatoon Blades in the WHL, he had to face a new level of competition with players he wasn't that familiar with and he looked a little unsettled. He gave up some softies, and he can certainly work on his rebound control. Most of his d-men were offensive-minded and didn't give him a lot of support. With that said, 6-5 blueliner Eric Mestery looked very stable in his defensive zone. Let's keep in mind that many of these players aren't used to playing with each other and after four days, it's tough to get continuity going in a game. The Flyers had a lot more players who were used to playing with one another.

Here are some additional notes:

On the Caps side:

John Carlson – The Caps first-rounder has tremendous offensive instincts, a nasty edge, and emerging defensive skills. At 6-3, 211 pounds, he is dangerous on the power play. He could be a late-season call-up for Washington this season.

Zach Miskovic – He is a defenseman who hits hard and has a good shot but he still needs some more work on his defensive game.

Anton Gustafsson – The Caps 2008 first-rounder handled face-offs very well and he played a good all-around game.

On the Flyers side:

Adam Morrison – Looked like an 18-year-old goalie who didn't get a lot of playing time in Saskatoon behind Holtby last year. He is athletic and moves well side-to-side, but his rebound control needs a lot of work.

Kevin Marshall – Showed that he can move the puck out of the defensive zone with ease and his shot is exceptional for a blueliner. He took a lot of slappers that were all on net.

Marc-Andre Bourdon – Played everything by the book and he was nearly invisible in a good way.

Jacob DeSerres – Had some good moments out there and handled the traffic in front of him like a pro.

Tomas Sinisalo – Wasn't afraid to play in the crease, he was good on the power play, has a nose for the net and can distribute the puck.

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