

# THE WEEKLY CHIRP

2024-25 MIDSEASON EDITION

**1/2 Mark:** On one hand, I lost. But on the other hand, I didn't tie. And neither did anyone else. Well done GMs! Dynasty, Reggie, CB, Kings, Legends, and the Ghost of Legends all came away victorious. There is beginning to be a marked separation between playoff teams and not, and the "in the mix" crowd is getting smaller.

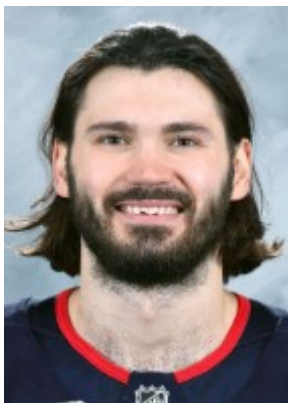
NBC Sports suggests tuning into Kings of Orleans this week. The GM is heating up with four wins in his last six weeks; he only had one win in his first eight weeks. Vanier Sportsbook's line on Kings is -200 with a category spread of 1.5.

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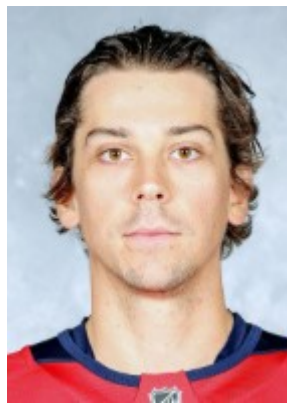


## MIDSEASON ALL-SURPRISE TEAM



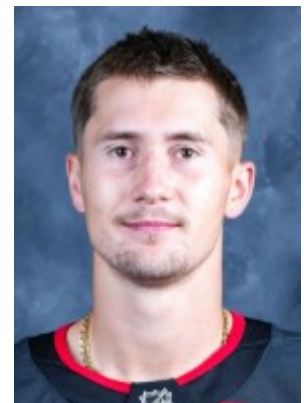
KIRILL MARCHENKO

47PTS, 43 GP



DYLAN STROME

46PTS, 42 GP



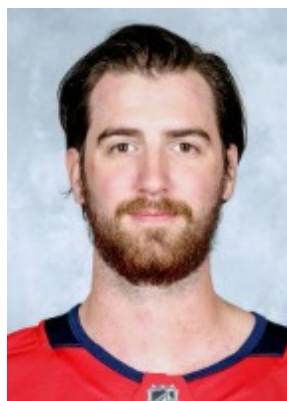
MARTIN NECAS

50PTS, 44 GP



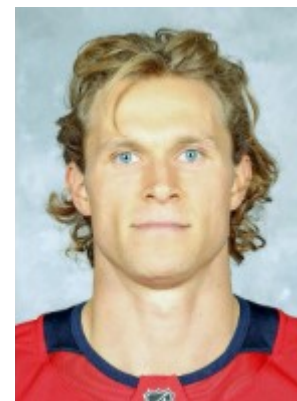
LANE HUTSON (ROOKIE)

32PTS, 42 GP



LOGAN THOMPSON

18-2-3



JAKOB CHYCHRUN

12 GOALS (3RD IN LEAGUE), 38 GP

## MIDSEASON ALL-DISAPPOINT TEAM



**CHRIS KREIDER**  
15PTS, 34 GP



**TREVOR ZEGRAS**  
10PTS, 24 GP



**STEVEN STAMKOS**  
25PTS, 42 GAMES



**BRADY SKJEI**  
13PTS, 42 GP



**JUUSE SAROS**  
9-18-6



**BROCK FABER**  
20PTS, 40 GP

This week's award  
for earliest FA move  
goes to...



**Tocchet's Gamblers!**

**MasterHockey** @MasterHockey\_ · Jan 12  
**Michael Hage** 🇨🇦 mène actuellement la NCAA au chapitre des points pour les joueurs U19 !  
**Hage** a été repêché 21e au total par le CH au plus récent repêchage de la LNH 🇨🇦🇺🇸🇨🇦 #GoHabsGo 🇨🇦

PLAYER	GP	G	A	TP
🇨🇦 Michael Hage (C)	19	11	13	24
🇺🇸 James Hagens (C)	18	5	15	20
🇺🇸 Cole Eiserman (LW)	18	12	7	19
🇨🇦 Sacha Boisvert (C)	21	9	9	18
🇺🇸 Cole Hutson (D)	18	4	13	17
🇨🇦 John Mustard (LW)	20	5	9	14
🇺🇸 Teddy Stiga (LW)	18	5	8	13
🇺🇸 Brodie Ziemer (RW)	22	8	4	12
🇺🇸 Cullen Potter (LW)	20	7	4	11
🇺🇸 Trevor Connolly (LW)	12	3	8	11

## MIDSEASON MARK—CHECK ON DRAFT ANALYSIS

The arrows indicate whether my assessment is more or less accurate based on assessment from quarter mark edition — **Accurate Assessment** when the prediction was spot on, **Meh** for when the analysis was ok, and **Huge Miss** for when the editor completely s\* the bed. You'll see that just one of my assessments has improved with time—Jake Guentzel. Any down arrow to orange or down arrow to red means my assessment went from good to ok and from ok to bad; the double arrows mean that it has gone from good to bad.

- **Ryan O'Reilley (204)** and **Gabriel Vilardi (61)** are first-line, first-PP players who fell to the 13th. Outstanding value.
- **Bouchard (58)** in the 1st. He could be a Norris candidate this season.
- **Garnet Hathaway (213)** for the hits in the 13th. Foils is sacrificing every other category for this player. ↓ **Dylan Cozens (184)**, **Trevor Zegras (587)**, **Gabriel Vilardi (61)**, and **Andrei Kuzmenko (651)** all went after and have 60+ point potential.
- **Filip Gustavsson (45)** in the 10th a high reward and low risk pick
- I'm not super high on **Joseph Woll (107)**. ↓ **Pekka-Luukonen (128)**, **Adin Hill (76)**, and **Tristen Jarry (242)** went way later and I think are comparable goaltenders
- **Hill (76)** and **D'Accord (105)** in the 7th and 13th respectively are great goalie options and even better based on where they were selected.
- I think ↓ **Wyatt Johnston (134)** is a good player with a lot of upside, but he is a player that could have been drafted in the following rounds
- Has to be ↓ **Dylan Cozens (184)** but sneakily I am going to give an honourable mention for **Kochetkov (100)**
- **Jake Sanderson (74)** in the 6th stands out as a very solid pick
- I'll beat the dead horse on **Nick Suzuki (54)**. Too early for a centreman of his calibre.
- ↓ **Nik Ehlers (117)** in the 9th and **Nyqvist (529)** in the 13th stand out as sneaky picks of un-sexy wingers who produce at a 60+ point clip.
- Not a big ↓↓ **Seth Jarvis (91)** fan, especially in round 3. A safer play at that spot would have been ↓ **Kevin Fiala (167)** or **John Tavares (33)** who went shortly thereafter.
- **Zegras (587)** in the 14th has the most upside based on where he was drafted
- I don't like the ↓↓ **Celebrini (136)** pick in the second round
- ↑ **Jake Guentzel (50)** in the first round could be a 100pt threat playing on the top line and top PP in Tampa Bay
- Probably **Nico Hischier (34)** in the 4th. That type of centre was available way later in the draft.
- **Nugent-Hopkins (205)** in the 5th seems like good value for a dual-eligible player and exposure to the Edmonton PP



TRISTEN JARRY

## THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN: THE SQUISHY MIDDLE OF THE EASTERN CONFERENCE

Just three points separate the first wildcard team and the five teams immediately following. The East is shaping up to be logjam with at least six teams vying for a wildcard spot, which include the Rangers, Islanders, and the Flyers who are just two and three points back respectively from this list but are not analyzed in this article. The thumbs up identifies why these teams can push for a wildcard berth and thumbs down illustrates what may keep them back from seeing extra hockey at the end of April.



- Thumbs up. Playoff pedigree. The Bruins have made the postseason in the past eight seasons. They have developed a winning culture around Marchand, Pastrnak, McAvoy, and Swayman.
- Thumbs down? Scoring and team defence. The Bruins are a brutal -26 in goal differential and only the NYI have fewer goals than the Bruins (NYI has played three fewer games). Boston has the fifth-worst goals for per game. Swayman's .895 percentage doesn't help matters either. Boston is the most penalized team per game.



- Thumbs up. The Jackets are exploding offensively, tied for third in scoring in the conference and carried by Werenski, Marchenko, Monahan (injured), and Voronokov. Their PP has been lethal, putting them in the top 10 league wide. And they love home cooking; they are 14-5-3 in Columbus
- Thumbs down. Keeping the puck out of their net has been a major problem all season (second-worst goals against per game). Having a bottom 10 PK does not help matters either. Winning on the road has been a problem. Columbus benefits from way more expected goals than goals, a trend that is due for some regression. And Monahan's hurt. Can we put any more sh\*t on this pile?



- Thumbs up. Of all the bubble teams, Ottawa is the only one with a positive goal differential. At season start, the Sens were considered a capable three-zone team with the acquisition of Linus Ullmark, a trend that has continued to the mid-way point of the season. The Sens look to have righted the ship with two wins after losing four straight and six of seven.
- Thumbs down. Depth in nets. Leevi Merilainen is a great story, but can he carry the load until Ullmark's return?



- Thumbs up. Detroit boasts a good mix of contributors from veterans (Larkin, DeBrincat, Kane, Compher) and from impactful youth (Raymond, Seider, Edvinsson). Goaltending has been a team strength, as has its PP (league second best). The Wings are "on fuego" having won their past seven games
- Thumbs down. They have a sub-70% PK, which hurts.



## THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN: THE SQUISHY MIDDLE OF THE EASTERN CONFERENCE



- Thumbs up. The Canadiens have turned a corner with nine wins in their past 12, five of which came against Stanley Cup winners in the past seven years. Montreal has tightened up team defence and both goalies are playing well. The PP is improved, and the PK is a legit threat to score against (T-2 for shorthanded goals for). The Habs also own the division with an 8-3-0 record, and they boast the league's second best record in one-goal games.
- Thumbs down. This team is still young, and despite their unreal play as of late, the team tends to lose big and turn out lackluster performances. The team is also one of the most penalized teams in the league.



- Thumbs up. Sidney Crosby's will to win. And sure, Richard Rakell and Bryan Rust having great seasons too. Pittsburgh is also one of the league's least penalized teams
- Thumbs down. Penguins' goalies and the league's third-worst save percentage. They don't help their case by allowing the third-worst number of high-danger chances and scoring chances. They have the league's worst goals against per game



Is this funny because we can picture ourselves in this situation in real life, or is it funny because it thinks Corey Perry is the type of guy who probably stands awkwardly next to family members who are actively talking shit about him? Would the meme be more or less funny if Corey Perry was replaced by an very poorly known hockey player?



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