The Hockey News

Mid-Season Check in on Playoff Teams

Since nothing really changes from week to week anymore, here is a mid-season mini-review of the potential playoff teams and their chances.

Prince of Wales

Locks

Tegucigalpa: #1 seed in conference is locked up. Now only playing for all-time records, and for home-ice over Thunder Bay if they meet in the finals.

Pitt: Looking good after 50 games to wrap up the Just Babes title and the #2 seed. One of the best defensive teams in the league despite terribly-ranked goaltending.

Hoth: with 60 games in the books, and already at 85 points, this team is all but certain to be in the big dance. The only question is whether they can secure the #3 seed over teams like Renfrew and Alberta.

Renfrew: Still only played 38 games, but if past performance is any indication this will be a playoff team. A second-half run could get them into #3, and avoid the Puss in 2nd round.

Alberta: Over .600 with only 12 games to play. Could probably go 0-fer and still make it.

Good chance

Sunnyvale: The shithawks have fallen far from their earlier .700 winning percentage. Now they’re into the bubble. Lucky for the trailer park, the rest of the division hasn’t been too good.

Rome: Plugging along at a plus 6 goal diff, despite playing at almost a .600 clip. Defense is the way.

Odds are not in favour

Silicon Valley: At this point, the oddsmakers say its more likely the Baywatch quit the league than make the playoffs. 19 games played in 8 weeks, including a one-game series yesterday. But still talented, and a good roster, and .474 winning percentage. 10 good games away from being a lock for a playoff spot. But still 30 games away from being where teams are supposed to be in gps.

Providence: Playing way below normal levels. The Sea Bass would be the most disappointing team in the league, were it not for a certain Wino. But has the chops to go on a run, and still has almost 50 games left.

Italy EBC: Still below .500 over 33 games played. Lots of hockey left, and trade deadline acquisitions should help with the scoring.

Get the Golf Clubs Polished

Dinkleberg: A really rough season so far, despite having a talented team and multiple seasons of experience.

Timmins: The team is so bad two managers have bailed.

Sonoma: Pre-season darlings are -44 in goal differential. Maybe they’re an “even-year” type of team?

Baytown: four wins in 38 games, and counting…

Sugar Valley: Right on their usual pace of .278 winning percentage, and unlikely to improve enough in second half.

Sumter: There was hope in the Trashcan for a couple of weeks, but they’re back below .400 and not enough time to rebound.

Clarence Campbell

Locks

Thunder Bay: #1 seed in conference is still in crosshairs. Unlikely to win Presidents Trophy though.

Taipei: In a race to the wire after 50 games to win the Swayze and the #2 seed. Slight lead on Minhattrick, but either way likely to end up with 2 or 3 seed and avoid the Pike in 2nd round.

Minhattrick: Fine season so far, if a little slow on the gps. Good bet for either 2 or 3 seed, and lined up for a rematch with Taipei in the 2nd round.

Maryhill: Has steadied the ship and sits at .664, good for 4th overall in the conference. Nice bet for home ice in round one.

Highland: With only 4 games left, the Wolf is at .604. A return to the Brule is in the cards.

Good chance

Hamilton: 12 games remaining, and the Stallions are a hair under .600. Will still need to win a couple to guarantee a spot, but all in all in a good spot to claim one of the bottom 4 playoff seeds.

Richfield: Only played 36 games, and only plus 1 in differential. But past performance would suggest that the Oracles will do enough to get into one of the final couple spots.

North Bay: They’ll need to keep up the pace to stay in front of the rabid dogs behind them, but the Knights have the inside track courtesy of their .643 over 28 games start.

Odds are not in favour

San Diego: The chance is still there, but if the Mavericks don’t win at a really high rate over their last 14 games they are just going to miss.

Ugandan: Will need to play at a .600 clip the rest of the way just to cling to the faintest hope of playoffs.

Autobahn: Another 2nd half surge will be needed; even then it might not be enough.

Minnesota: On the verge of being ruled out, with only 20 games left and still under .500. Will need to go on a historic run.

Caledonia: Not good odds, but anything is possible given their 50 games remaining.

Get the Golf Clubs Polished

Inglewood: At 18 games played, 16 goals scored and 18 losses, the Monstars are another team more likely to be simmed than finish.

Saguenay: Really tough season in La Belle Province, this team might be run out back to English Canada if they don’t improve in the second half.

Orange County: Between past record and current record, the Weststars looks to have no chance. Bigger question, will they finish the season?