Ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you about the dynamic duo of the NHL, Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau. These two teammates have been through it all together, from their first game as teammates on December 3, 2005, to their last game in our study on February 23, 2020. In this span, they played a whopping 957 games together. But what happens when they're not on the ice together? Well, my data analyst cronies have dug up some fascinating findings that shed light on the impact of their absence from each other's lineups.

Let's start with Joe Thornton. When Patrick Marleau is not in the lineup, Thornton's play takes a hit in several areas. His average assists drop significantly from 0.77 to 0.47 per game, and his average points decrease from 0.99 to 0.70 per game. These differences are statistically significant, my friends, meaning that Thornton's playmaking abilities suffer without his trusty teammate by his side. Furthermore, his average shots, power play assists, faceoff taken, faceoff wins, plus-minus, even time on ice, power play time on ice, and short-handed time on ice all see a decline when Marleau is absent. It's clear that Thornton relies heavily on Marleau's presence to maximize his performance in these areas.

But hold on, folks! It's not all doom and gloom for Joe Thornton. There are certain aspects of his game that remain unaffected by Marleau's absence. His goal-scoring prowess, hitting ability, power play goals, penalty minutes, takeaways, giveaways, and standings points don't show any significant difference with or without Marleau in the lineup. So, while Thornton may miss his partner in crime in some areas, he can still hold his own in these other aspects.

Now, let's shift our focus to Patrick Marleau. When Joe Thornton is not in the lineup, Marleau's game also experiences some changes. His average assists drop from 0.41 to 0.24 per game, and his average goals decrease from 0.37 to 0.26 per game. These differences are statistically significant, my friends, indicating that Marleau's playmaking and goal-scoring abilities take a hit without Thornton by his side. Additionally, his average points, shots, hits, power play goals, power play assists, faceoff taken, faceoff wins, power play time on ice, and short-handed time on ice all see a decline when Thornton is absent. It's clear that Marleau thrives when he has Thornton as his linemate.

But wait, there's more! Just like Thornton, Marleau has areas of his game that remain unaffected by Thornton's absence. His penalty minutes, takeaways, giveaways, plus-minus, even time on ice, and standings points don't show any significant difference with or without Thornton in the lineup. So, while Marleau may miss his partner in crime in some areas, he can still hold his own in these other aspects.

In conclusion, folks, Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau are undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with when they're on the ice together. Their chemistry and connection are evident in the significant impact they have on each other's play. When Marleau is absent, Thornton's playmaking abilities and overall performance suffer, while Marleau's playmaking and goal-scoring abilities take a hit without Thornton by his side. However, both players still have areas of their game that remain strong regardless of their teammate's presence. So, let's hope these two continue to light up the ice together and show us why they're a legendary duo in the NHL.