

Puck picks

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with 11 players 30 and over. 90 points.

St. Louis Blues—"Ooooh. Ah! That's the sound of the men working on the chain gang." That's exactly how the Blues will have to play to succeed. Too bad their only Sutter is now coach: they could use his work ethic as an example. 80 points.

Chicago Black Hawks—The Blackhawks have some youth in Dave "Charlie" Manson, Jeremy Roenick, and Trent Yawney. That, and Keenan's coaching, should get them through the Norris race. . .but does Denis hate Mike? 72 points.

Toronto Maple Leafs—Wendel will play 50 or 60 games this year, and lead the Leafs to an amazing finish, wherein they'll nip Minnesota by a single point in the last game of the year, and make the playoffs, only to force me to listen to every dumb Leafs joke in the country, before they fold in six games to Detroit. Either that or they'll win the league title and the Stanley Cup. 60 points.

Minnesota North Stars—Mike Modano is NOT, repeat NOT Mario Lemieux, nor Jesus Christ, nor Wayne Gretzky. The North Stars are NOT, repeat NOT the next Calgary Flames, nor Soviet Red Army, nor a good club. 59 points.

Patrick Division

Philadelphia Flyers—The Orange and Black are Back. This is a big, strong, mean, deep club, loaded with kids from Hershey who want to make the big club this year. They'll rebound from .500 to about. . .95 points.

Pittsburgh Penguins—How 'bout that Mario Lemieux? 90 points.

New Jersey Devils—Just because Captain Kirk couldn't be that bad two years in a row, and because their power play—one of their big problems last year—has been Russified. 85 points.

Washington Capitals—Scott Stevens will win a Norris Trophy one of these years. Why not now? The Caps will still not get out of the division in the playoffs, but they'll be good enough to get there again. 82 points.

New York Islanders—Radar Arbour and the boys from the Sound will improve, but not by enough to catch the Caps in the always-tight Patrick. Look for LaFontaine to score 95-100 points this year. 75 points.

New York Rangers—Trader Phil Esposito screwed this team up for at least the next two years. The Broadway Blueshirts will have to see the cellar before they see the stars. 60 points.

Adams Division

Boston Bruins—The B's will bounce back, lead by Burrige, Bourque and Bob Joyce. Mike Milbury will mould a mean, muscled outfit that

will terrify teams in Da Gahden. 98 points.

Montreal Canadiens—For no particular reason, I see the Habs falling short this season. No particular reasons like Gaïne and Robinson, maybe. 95 points.

Buffalo Sabres—This is Pete Turgeon's year to bloom. He'll pop 40 goals and 100 points. Newcomer Al Mogilny will develop by the end of the year, too. The Sabres will stay over .500 for sure. 88 points.

Hartford Whalers—This team has the young guns—Scott Young and Jody Hull—and the overall depth to do a lot better than last year. The goaltending looks settled with the Goalack, Peter Sidorkiewicz, and the Kid, Kay Whitmore. That'll let them unload Mike Liut to a desperate team for another skater. 70 points.

Quebec Nordiques—Les Nords will need a better showing from Joe Sakic and Bryan Fogarty than they are likely to get. Certainly Peter Stastny can't keep going alone. Mitch Goulet may be slowing as well. Give them a couple of years to rebuild, and keep an eye out for ex-Bear Brent Severyn by mid-season. 60 points.

by Jeff Chow

There's no talk of disarmament in the National Hockey League as teams prepare for the 1989-90 season. In fact, several teams will be relying on Soviet artillery in the race to become the NHL superpower beginning today. Linemates Igor Larionov and Vladimir Krutov have joined the **Vancouver Canucks**, while former linemate Sergei Makarov was added to the **Calgary Flame** arsenal. The **New Jersey Devil** defence should be solidified by Viacheslav Fetisov and Sergei Starikov. Finally eighteen year-old defector, Alexander Mogilny joins the **Buffalo Sabres**, making them a threat to the other teams.

Here's a look at divisional arms races.

There might not be any survivors in the Smythe Division as it gets ready for an all-out war. The defending Champs, Calgary, have lost some firepower (Lanny McDonald, Hakan Loob, and Rob Ramage), but they're still the team to beat. The real battle will be among the **Los Angeles Kings**, the **Edmonton Oilers**, and the **Canucks**. New coach, Tom Webster, will be the one "pushing the buttons" and the Kings' success depends on him. The Oilers are depending on a mix of "young guns" with a veteran nucleus. Meanwhile, the Canucks are better, but still need the type of player who can destroy the opposi-

tion singlehandedly. The **Winnipeg Jets** are destined to be the division casualties.

It'll be more like gang warfare in the Norris as the **St. Louis Blues** will unseat past-power, **Detroit Red Wings**. The Blues have cleaned out their old weapons (eg. Bernie Federko) and replaced them with advanced technology (eg. Rob Brind'Amour). Detroit is strong enough for second, but they need youth, not Federko or Borje Salming. The **Chicago Black Hawks** have the artillery, but may rely too heavily on Alain Chevrier. The only race the **Minnesota North Stars** and the **Toronto Maple Leafs** will be in is to see who gets junior Mike Ricci next year.

In the Adams, the **Montreal Canadiens** have enough middle-range missiles to keep on top, but there may be holes in their young defence. They'll be looking out for the Pierre Turgeon-led Buffalo Sabres who are prepared to invade first place. The **Boston Bruins** have a low supply of firepower, but their experience will carry them over the **Quebec Nordiques** and the **Hartford Whalers**.

It'll be over quickly in the Patrick, where the **Pittsburgh Penguins** will launch a full offensive on the other teams. That is, if Tom Barrasso decides to have a good season. The **New Jersey Devils** have several new weapons and could be contenders. The **Washington Capitals** will want to avenge last year's destruction courtesy of the **Philadelphia Flyers**. The Flyers, meanwhile, are in the middle of a revolt, so they won't keep up. The **New York Rangers** and the **New York Islanders** are electing this year to be peace-keeping teams.

SECRET WEAPONS (players that could make or break their team's success): **Cal:** Al MacInnis, **LA:** Kelly Hruddy, **Edm:** Jimmy Carson, **Van:** Trevor Linden, **Win:** Dale Hawerchuk, **StL:** Adam Oates, **Det:** Steve Chiasson, **Chi:** Alain Chevrier, **Min:** Mike Modano, **Tor:** Mike Ricci (in 1990), **Mon:** Russ Courtnall, **Buf:** Pierre Turgeon, **Bos:** Cam Neely, **Que:** Joe Sakic, **Har:** Ron Francis, **Pit:** Tom Barrasso, **NJ:** V Fetisov, **Was:** Dino Ciccarelli, **Phi:** Tim Kerr, **NYR:** Brian Leetch, **NYI:** Pat LaFontaine.



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