

Los Angeles Kings

The Los Angeles Kings won the 2012 Stanley Cup. It was the culmination of a long and messy season with a bunch of up and downs. It was also the culmination of a long and messy rebuild that did not always seem like it was leading the team down the path to a championship.

In 2009-10, the Kings had finished with 101 points and started the playoffs in the sixth seed. In 2010-11, their point total dropped to 98, earning the seventh spot in the West. And in 2011-12, they fell into the final playoff position by virtue of a 95-point regular season. They were facing Vancouver, fresh off a Stanley Cup Finals appearance, in the first round; a loss in that series would have raised serious questions about where the team was going and whether a trio of first round exits was a fair recompense for the six preceding seasons outside the playoffs.

The Kings, however, made it past the Canucks, and then the Blues, the Coyotes, and finally, the Devils. In the Stanley Cup Finals, they were pushed to six games; it was the longest series they played, their closest brush with actual defeat.

The question now is this: does last year's victory mark a turning point for Los Angeles? Are they about to become a power in the Western Conference, a team for which contending for the Stanley Cup is the assumed outcome every spring? Or do the last three years of barely squeaking into the postseason tell the tale of a team that got hot at the right time but doesn't have the talent to stick with the strongest teams in the West?

Forwards

The Kings' forward corps is blessed with both high-end talent and good NHL depth.

The top line of Anze Kopitar, Dustin Brown, and Justin Williams faces the toughest matchups, and typically lays waste to them. With Kopitar on the ice last year—and again, this is against the opposition's best lines, and without a big zone start push—the Kings

outshot the other guys 36 to 26 over an average hour of 5-on-5 play and outscored them by a 20% margin. This is an unbelievably good line, the kind of all-purpose unit that coaches dream of. They drive outscoring for the Kings.

It's unclear right now how the rest of the forwards will be allocated, but last year's playoff team used Jeff Carter and Dustin Penner on either side of Mike Richards as its second line. Interestingly, Darryl Sutter used them largely as a defensive zone unit in the post-season, and consequently, they were badly outshot though they managed to put up good numbers thanks to some wacky and unsustainable percentages. Penner, the

poster boy of the trio in that department, had a 5-on-5 on-ice shooting percentage of 13.4% and an on-ice save percentage of .955. In other words, the average Kings' shot with Penner on the ice in the playoffs was three times as likely to be a goal as the average opposition shot—an imbalance that clearly can't last.

That said, Carter, Richards, and Penner all have solid

KINGS IN A BOX

Last Season

Goals For	194	29th
Goals Against	179	2nd
GVT	15	11th
Points	95	13th

Playoffs Won Stanley Cup

Despite anemic scoring, the Kings rode a dream season by Jonathan Quick into the playoffs, where they absolutely dominated.

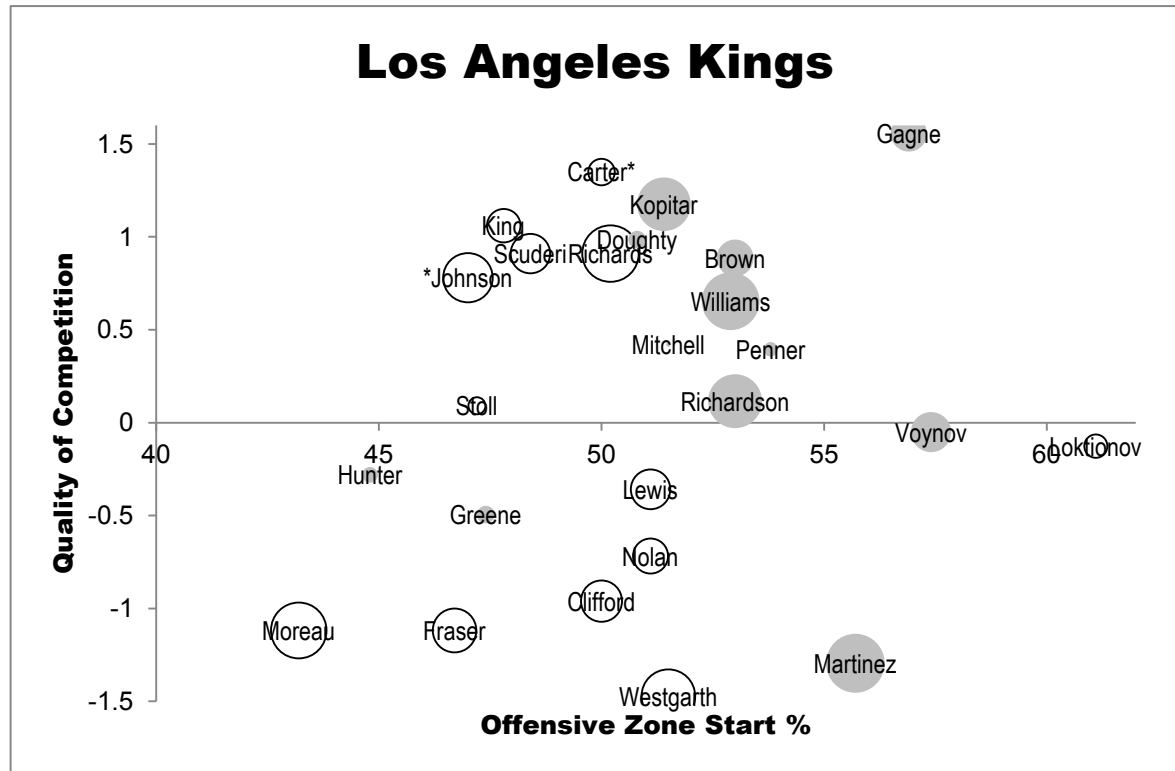
Three-Year Record

GVT	58	10th
Points	294	11th
Playoffs	3 Appearances, 20 Wins, 1 Cup	

VUKOTA Projections

Goals For	216	23rd
Goals Against	198	1st
GVT	18	5th
Points	97	5th

Los Angeles stands to be a better offensive team than VUKOTA expects, based on what we saw post-Sutter and post-Carter.



track records as positive difference-makers for their previous teams. All three are expected to rebound after difficult campaigns.

Jarret Stoll is likely the Kings' most important forward outside of the top six. He has long struggled to score at even strength (over eight full NHL seasons, he has averaged just eight goals per season at 5-on-5) but he makes up for it by being a special teams ace. Stoll is a solid checking line center who wins draws, kills penalties, and adds a heavy point shot on the man advantage.

The Kings also have a solid supporting cast of depth forwards and young up-and-comers. Trevor Lewis, Dwight King, Jordan Nolan, Brad Richardson, and Colin Fraser all acquitted themselves well as bottom-six forwards in LA's run to the Cup. Of special note is Simon Gagne, who was injured for much of last season; the last time he managed to play 70+ games, in 2008-09, he scored 34 goals, though that's a few years in the rearview mirror. Over 34 games last season, Gagne contributed 17 points. Injuries make it difficult to rely on the former Flyer, but without him, the Kings will be fine, and if he is healthy, he could add another potent weapon to their rotation.

Defense

Drew Doughty has enjoyed an interesting career to date. A finalist for the James Norris Trophy as the league's best defenseman in his sophomore season of 2009-10, Doughty has seen his point totals slide from 59 in that season, to 40, down to 36 last year. A disagreement over contract terms—GM Dean Lombardi wanted an internal cap at \$6.8 million per season, while Doughty eventually agreed to \$7.0 million per season—cost the young blueliner all of training camp. As late as January 2012, Doughty was maligned as one of the root problems with the Kings organization, a team seen as underachievers prior to their Stanley Cup win.

The difficulties were quickly forgotten as Doughty was the NHL's best defenseman in the playoffs, handling the toughest available minutes with aplomb while racking up 16 points in 20 games.

Doughty is without question one of the NHL's finest young defensemen, and he routinely faces top competition. In 2009-10, when he was a media darling, Doughty was starting 59% of his non-neutral zone shifts in the offensive zone. In last year's playoffs, less than 43% of his shifts were starting in the

offensive zone, the toughest zone start on the Los Angeles blue line. While his offense has suffered, statistics such as Corsi and Fenwick, which correlate closely to scoring chances, show that Doughty is still winning the war against the best the NHL can throw at him.

The Kings' defense is about more than Doughty, who serves as the anchor point for a strong group of rearguards. Rob Scuderi and Willie Mitchell are both excellent shutdown defenders, with Scuderi paired with Doughty and Mitchell working the second pairing with Slava Voynov, who just completed his rookie season.

Voynov is another reason for optimism with regard to the Kings' defense: he was holding his own in the AHL at the age of 18 (since he was drafted out of Russia, he was able to play in the minors at a young age) and now has more than 200 games and 100 points at that level. At just 22 years of age, Voynov had played six full seasons of professional hockey against men (including his time in Russia's top league), 396 games of regular season and playoff hockey. He was a 51-point man in his last full AHL season, and scored 20 points in 54 games as a first-year NHLer.

Matt Greene and Alec Martinez form a capable third pairing, with Greene occasionally pairing up with Mitchell as a defensive zone specialty pairing. Behind them, the Kings' farm team in Manchester has a number of capable fill-ins, with defense arguably the team's strongest position from a prospects standpoint.

Goaltending

It wasn't all that long ago that the idea of Jonathan Quick as a stop-gap in net for Los Angeles was a popular one. Quick, after all, had reasonable career numbers but had never posted a truly elite season, while his backup, 2006 11th overall pick Jonathan Bernier was, and to some degree still is, seen as a star in the making.

Now though, the obvious loser of the battle between the two is Bernier. Quick's fantastic regular season earned him a berth on the NHL's second All-Star team, while his superb postseason deservedly won him the Conn Smythe Trophy as the biggest contributor of the Kings' championship run. Consequently, he signed a decade-long extension in L.A. this summer. For better or worse, the Kings are committed long term to Quick.

It's going to be interesting to see how Quick fares. His breakout season at the age of 26 featured a .929

save percentage over 69 games, but over 180 previous games, Quick had posted a slightly below-average .912 save percentage. Lombardi is gambling that his latest season is more indicative of the goalie he is and is going to be than his three previous campaigns. That's not a gamble that is anywhere close to certain, particularly given Quick's save percentage on the penalty kill.

Quick's situational save percentage

Season	ESSV%	SHSV%
2008-09	.926	.869
2009-10	.919	.853
2010-11	.921	.903
2011-12	.933	.908

Very few goaltenders are capable of maintaining a shorthanded save percentage above .900, and just because Quick has done it for two consecutive seasons does not necessarily make him an exception. Consider that his .853 penalty kill save percentage in 2009-10 ranked him 29th out of the 30 NHL starting goaltenders. And just ask Ryan Miller about the difference between a Vezina-winning 2009-10 and a mediocre 2010-11.

At this point, the most likely outcome is that Quick regresses. He was unbeatable in the playoffs, and nearly so in the regular season. However, we have three previous seasons of evidence—just under 5,000 shots—indicating that Quick is a good but not great NHL goaltender.

If Quick were to see the same number of shots in 2012-13 (highly unlikely, given the current lockout), a regression back to his .912 save percentage of years past would cost the Kings an extra 31 goals against. Even splitting the difference between Quick's career to this point and his breakthrough 2011-12 campaign would represent a difference of an additional 15 goals against.

We will see if the Kings' decade-long bet on Quick—primarily based on one brilliant year—pays off down the line or not. It is of course impossible to be absolutely sure, but the performance of goaltenders who broke through at a similar age—a group that includes Roberto Luongo, Jose Theodore, Nikolai Khabibulin, and Byron Dafeo—suggests that while Quick is likely to be a solid goaltender, he will be hard-pressed to repeat the brilliance of 2011-12 on a year-to-year basis.

Outlook

Looking at the wealth the Kings possess at all positions, as well as the standout goaltending they received from Jonathan Quick, it's difficult to believe that they just slid into the postseason as the Western Conference's eighth seed.

And indeed, they should not have. At 5-on-5, the Kings were one of the league's strongest teams in terms of sustainably outshooting the opposition. They were good at it all year long, but got better still with a pair of moves: dumping Terry Murray as coach in favor of Darryl Sutter and trading Jack Johnson for Jeff Carter.

There are two related reasons for the Kings' struggles during the regular season: their record in one-goal games and their shooting percentage in 5-on-5 play.

Season	Record	Win%	NHL Rank
2008-09	20-23	.465	22nd
2009-10	25-19	.568	7th
2010-11	22-15	.595	4th
2011-12	17-29	.370	27th

A team's record in one-goal games tends to bounce around. With few exceptions, it's anchored to a team's ability to win games in general, and goes up and down seemingly at random. As the Kings were 23-13 in games decided by more than one goal, it appears that their record in one-goal games was an aberration that failed to reflect the team's true talent level. They are

unlikely to lose two-thirds of games decided by one goal next year.

Season	5-on-5 SH%	NHL Rank
2008-09	7.2	t-25th
2009-10	8.5	t-8th
2010-11	8.5	t-9th
2011-12	6.4	30th

It's likely easiest to think of the chart above as "goals per 100 even strength shots." Over the three years prior to 2011-12, the Kings averaged a little over eight goals per one hundred 5-on-5 shots. That figure dipped to 6.4 in 2011-12, a drop of almost 20%. It's easy to see how a 20% drop in scoring efficiency would affect a team—particularly in close games, where a shot off the post or a goal that just squeaks past the line has far more impact.

As we see looking at Los Angeles' record over the past four years, however, losing close games and having a terrible shooting percentage are not trends with a long-term history. The logical conclusion is that they will not continue into 2012-13, and that without those factors weighing the team down, the Kings' ability to outshoot the opposition at a ridiculous rate will start to have more influence on where the team finishes in the NHL standings.

The Los Angeles Kings are a very good team. The 2012-13 NHL season will reflect that reality.

Jonathan Willis

FORWARDS

Dustin Brown		RW											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	25	82	24	32	56	-6	19:15	3:10	1:24	8.0	2.1	-1.3	8.8
2010-11	LAK	26	82	28	29	57	17	19:22	2:57	1:22	7.9	5.1	-0.1	13.0
2011-12	LAK	27	82	22	32	54	18	20:10	3:19	1:40	3.6	6.6	-0.6	9.6
2012-13	LAK	28	79.5	24.9	32.7	57.6					6.4	4.2	0.0	10.6

An incredibly durable and consistent player, Dustin Brown distinguished himself as an NHL star by having an incredible postseason en route to winning the Stanley Cup. In 20 playoff games, the Kings' captain scored 20 points and was +16 plus/minus. Amazingly, the Ithaca, New York native has played more than 78 games in eight straight seasons and scored between 53 and 60 points for five straight years. Known as the NHL's undisputed king of drawings penalties (a.k.a. diving), Brown averaged 2.2 Penalties Drawn/60 in 2011-12.

Jeff Carter		C/RW											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PHI	24	74	33	28	61	2	19:18	3:05	1:47	11.1	2.2	-0.3	13.0
2010-11	PHI	25	80	36	30	66	27	18:14	2:56	0:39	13.8	3.4	-0.5	16.6
2011-12	LAK, CBJ	26	55	21	13	34	-12	19:11	3:06	0:44	3.8	1.3	-0.3	4.8
2012-13	LAK	27	65.9	25.5	24.5	50.0					6.6	1.7	-0.1	8.3

There is, and will never be, any escaping Mike Richards for Jeff Carter. The long-time teammates, both Ontario-born natural centers, are 41 days apart in age and were selected 13 picks apart in the first round of the 2003 draft by Philadelphia. While both played key roles in taking the Flyers to the land of Almost, both were excoriated by media and fans for their extravagant lifestyles. And both were traded away, Richards to L.A. and Carter to Columbus. Like a cleaver to a watermelon, they were torn apart with brute, sharp force. Between a broken foot, a separated shoulder, and general ineffectiveness, Carter was a disappointment in mid-Ohio, prorating to a season of under 6 GVT. Ultimately, the chaos engendered by their separation was far worse than the chaos they had built together, so Carter was shipped off to Hollywood to join his partner in crime. In California, Carter was a much better player, prorating to a 10+ GVT season. His playoff run was hit or miss, with four multipoint games alongside 12 scoreless contests. VUKOTA envisions a repeat of his post-trade contributions, and as long as Mike Richards is not far away, we should, too.

Kyle Clifford		LW											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2010-11	LAK	19	76	7	7	14	-10	9:30	0:01	0:00	-0.9	0.7	0.0	-0.1
2011-12	LAK	20	81	5	7	12	-5	9:24	0:11	0:13	-1.5	1.8	0.0	0.3
2012-13	LAK	21	67.5	7.7	8.2	15.8					-1.0	1.4	0.0	0.4

For the second straight year, Kyle Clifford showed some versatility as a fourth line winger. The former Barrie Colt proved that he could be trusted in limited minutes and occasionally add some offense while acting as the Kings' intimidating force by racking up 123 penalty minutes. During L.A.'s Stanley Cup run, however, the winger did not have the same impact as in 2010-11, when he scored five points in six playoff games. In fact, Clifford was scratched in all but three of the Kings' 20 postseason contests.

Colin Fraser		C											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	CHI	24	70	7	12	19	6	9:35	0:02	1:26	0.2	3.4	0.0	3.6
2010-11	EDM	25	67	3	2	5	-2	10:16	0:04	2:39	-2.4	1.5	-0.3	-1.2
2011-12	LAK	26	67	2	6	8	-2	9:44	0:06	1:10	-1.8	2.0	0.0	0.2
2012-13	LAK	27	56.0	3.7	4.9	8.6					-1.7	1.4	0.0	-0.4

From the penthouse to the outhouse and back to the penthouse, Colin Fraser went from playing a bit part with the Stanley Cup winning Chicago Blackhawks in 2009-10 to a similar role with bottom-feeding Edmonton in 2010-11 and then back to the top of the hockey world with the Kings last season. Never more than a role player, at least Fraser could claim to have played a key role in the actual playoffs, dressing for 18 of 20 games after only appearing in three for the Hawks. However, his role changed radically in the playoffs. During the regular season, the former third rounder was among the Kings' forwards most likely to begin a shift in the defensive zone, as he did 46.7% of the time. But once the postseason rolled around, Fraser was protected in the extreme, starting over 70% of his shifts in the offensive zone and against the absolute worst competition available.

Simon Gagne			LW										LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PHI	29	58	17	23	40	-1	18:37	3:13	1:28	5.9	1.4	-0.3	7.0
2010-11	TBL	30	63	17	23	40	-12	16:53	3:06	0:13	5.0	0.2	0.1	5.2
2011-12	LAK	31	34	7	10	17	-1	17:59	3:04	1:10	0.5	1.6	-0.8	1.2
2012-13	LAK	32	53.4	12.8	17.0	29.8					2.7	1.5	0.0	4.1

For the fourth time in five years, Simon Gagne failed to play a full season. In fact, during that timespan, he has only been in the lineup for 259 out of a possible 410 games, or about 63% of them. When Gagne was in the lineup, the former Flyers star was a mixed bag at 5-on-5, with solid possession numbers but a third line scoring rate of 1.36 ESP/60. Going into the final year of his two-year, \$7 million deal, the 32-year-old winger can will be looking to prove he can still be a top-six forward—and stay healthy for a full season.

Trent Hunter			RW										Free Agent	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	NYI	29	61	11	17	28	3	15:10	2:53	0:10	2.4	2.0	0.3	4.7
2010-11	NYI	30	17	1	3	4	-3	12:39	1:13	0:07	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2
2011-12	LAK	31	38	2	5	7	-4	10:05	0:50	0:00	-0.8	0.4	0.0	-0.3
2012-13	Free Agent	32	40.8	4.5	7.0	11.5					0.1	0.8	0.0	0.9

When Trent Hunter netted 51 points in his rookie year in 2003-04, it appeared he would be a quality secondary scorer for the New York Islanders, if not a future top-six forward. But the six-foot-three, 210-pound winger never again matched that performance and has faded into a replacement-level forward. In 2011-12, he split time between the NHL and AHL. His tepid 10 points in 20 minor league games seemed to confirm the conclusions of NHL general managers as a whole.

Dwight King			LW										LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2010-11	LAK	21	6	0	0	0	-2	11:43	0:04	0:00	-0.7	0.0	0.0	-0.8
2011-12	LAK	22	27	5	9	14	3	14:38	1:47	0:02	1.1	1.1	0.0	2.2
2012-13	LAK	23	50.0	13.1	14.5	27.6					2.1	1.2	0.0	3.3

Dwight King split time between the NHL and AHL during the regular season, but his eye-opening performance during the playoffs, scoring eight points in 20 games, should cement a big league role for the bruising six-foot-three, 234-pound forward. Even in his 27 regular season games, King had a nose for the net, producing at a top-six rate of 2.11 ESP/60 while leading the Kings with 0.88 goals per 60 minutes at 5-on-5.

Anze Kopitar			C										LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	22	82	34	47	81	6	21:47	3:52	1:35	13.6	3.9	2.4	19.9
2010-11	LAK	23	75	25	48	73	25	21:35	3:37	2:03	11.8	7.2	-0.1	18.9
2011-12	LAK	24	82	25	51	76	12	21:20	3:23	2:14	9.3	6.9	-1.7	14.6
2012-13	LAK	25	82.0	31.7	50.0	81.7					11.3	5.4	-0.1	16.7

The NHL has had only five players emerge from the former Yugoslavia, and interestingly enough, Anze Kopitar is not the leading scorer. In fact, his last point accrued in 2011-12 edged him just past the halfway point to the gaudy career put up by 1970s star Ivan Boldirev. That said, as Boldirev's hometown is in modern day Serbia, Kopitar is, hands down, the greatest player to ever emerge from Slovenia. Too good for the locals by the age of 16, Kopitar paved his road with a teenage stint in Sweden. Last season, the budding superstar proved that the

ankle injury that ended his 2010-11 season a few games early was no longer bothering him as he eclipsed 0.90 points per game for the third year in a row and the fourth time in five seasons—he has never dipped below 0.80 points per game. His end of season numbers would have been even more impressive if the Kings could have stopped more than 90.9% of the even strength shots taken while he was on the ice, the worst among full-time, full-season Kings.

Trevor Lewis													C		LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	LAK	22	5	0	0	0	-3	9:07	0:06	0:16	-0.4	-0.1	0.0	-0.5		
2010-11	LAK	23	72	3	10	13	-11	11:29	0:03	1:46	-1.3	2.5	0.0	1.2		
2011-12	LAK	24	72	3	4	7	-3	13:14	0:15	1:43	-3.0	3.0	-0.3	-0.2		
2012-13	LAK	25	61.2	5.6	9.6	15.2					-0.9	2.2	0.0	1.3		

After two seasons of offering very little in terms of offensive production, former first rounder Trevor Lewis busted out for nine points in 20 playoff games. The Utah-born centerman was once projected as a top line forward, but he has struggled even to be an effective role player—Lewis performed poorly in the possession game and isn't much of a faceoff whiz, either (43.7%).

Andrei Loktionov													C		LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	LAK	19	1	0	0	0	0	11:52	0:00	0:00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
2010-11	LAK	20	19	4	3	7	2	14:45	2:34	0:00	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.0		
2011-12	LAK	21	39	3	4	7	-4	12:31	0:42	0:01	-1.0	0.6	0.0	-0.4		
2012-13	LAK	22	45.2	6.8	7.8	14.7					0.1	1.0	0.0	1.1		

Neither large, nor highly touted when he was drafted in the fifth round out of the ranks of the ill-fated Lokomotiv Yaroslavl organization, Andrei Loktionov came to North America for a season with the OHL Windsor Spitfires and proved to be a quick learner. Thereafter, in three partial seasons playing for Manchester in the AHL, Loktionov has impressed with his speed and offensive flair, scoring between 0.63-0.91 points per game. While last season's 39 NHL games marks a career high, he was heavily protected while on the ice, with 61.1% of his zone starts coming in the offensive end, tops among L.A. forwards, while also playing against below-average competition. Stapled to the press box after the third game of the first round, Loktionov will need to show more bang this season in order to earn more—and more critical—ice time.

Ethan Moreau													LW		Retired	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	EDM	34	76	9	9	18	-18	14:24	0:11	2:08	-0.9	0.7	0.0	-0.2		
2010-11	CBJ	35	37	1	5	6	-9	12:28	0:04	1:43	-1.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5		
2011-12	LAK	36	28	1	3	4	-3	10:31	0:16	0:02	-0.5	0.2	0.0	-0.3		
2012-13	Retired	37	36.8	3.4	5.5	8.9					0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7		

Never a top-six forward, Ethan Moreau earned himself a long career, mostly with the Oilers, as a mucker and grinder and all-around good guy—he was awarded the 2008-09 King Clancy Award as the NHL's top humanitarian. Although his career ended somewhat ignominiously by being placed on waivers by the Kings last December, he could at least walk away with his first Stanley Cup ring. Moreau announced his retirement last June and has since taken on a position as a professional scout for the Montreal Canadiens.

Jordan Nolan													RW		LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2011-12	LAK	22	26	2	2	4	2	9:20	0:16	0:02	-0.1	0.7	0.0	0.6		
2012-13	LAK	23	45.6	6.1	7.0	13.1					-1.0	0.9	0.0	-0.2		

Like Dwight King, Jordan Nolan spent much of the season with the Manchester Monarchs, scoring 22 points and racking up 119 penalty minutes in 40 games, and like King, he was in the lineup for all 20 Stanley Cup playoff games. Nolan has less skill than King, but is an adept fighter who is always the first man stepping up to defend a teammate. The son of former Jack Adams Trophy winner Ted Nolan may not have the ability to play every night as a fourth liner, but he will get a chance to prove himself after a strong playoffs.

Scott Parse													RW/LW		NJD	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	LAK	25	59	11	13	24	13	10:31	0:05	0:00	2.0	3.1	-0.3	4.9		
2010-11	LAK	26	5	1	3	4	5	13:47	1:48	0:00	0.4	0.6	0.0	1.0		
2011-12	LAK	27	9	2	0	2	1	11:16	0:33	0:00	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.6		
2012-13	NJD	28	29.3	5.3	6.1	11.4					0.7	0.7	0.0	1.5		

After scoring 24 points in 59 games in 2009-10, Scott Parse has only played in 14 games since, and he did not appear in any of the Kings' postseason games. On a two-way deal with the Devils, the Michigan native will likely see more AHL than NHL time.

Dustin Penner													LW		LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	EDM	27	82	32	31	63	6	18:22	3:02	1:15	9.2	3.6	-0.8	12.0		
2010-11	LAK, EDM	28	81	23	22	45	-12	18:07	3:05	1:08	3.6	2.1	-1.1	4.6		
2011-12	LAK	29	65	7	11	18	-7	14:19	1:33	0:02	-0.3	1.0	0.0	0.7		
2012-13	LAK	30	63.1	12.8	17.4	30.2					2.1	1.4	0.0	3.5		

A massive disappointment ever since he signed with the Edmonton Oilers as a rare RFA five seasons ago, Dustin Penner's play sank to new lows as his waistline expanded to greater breadths after joining the Kings in a deadline day trade in 2011. With his 18 points accompanied by play that was scarcely above replacement level both before and after his infamous pancake-lifting injury, the Manitoba beefcake finally showed a glimpse of the effective power forward many foresaw in stretches with Anaheim and Edmonton earlier in his career. But before we get too excited by Penner's playoff performance, considering it a rediscovery of latent hockey skills, we should bear in mind a well above-average teamwide shooting percentage while he was on the ice. Good fortune deserves credit for some of those assists.

Mike Richards													C		LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	PHI	24	82	31	31	62	-2	20:24	3:16	2:09	10.4	2.0	-0.8	11.6		
2010-11	PHI	25	81	23	43	66	11	18:52	2:56	2:08	11.3	3.7	-0.5	14.5		
2011-12	LAK	26	74	18	26	44	3	18:53	3:06	2:02	4.4	3.9	0.0	8.3		
2012-13	LAK	27	72.4	21.0	32.0	53.0					6.4	2.8	0.0	9.2		

After an ungraceful exit from Philadelphia, Mike Richards did not light up the scoreboard in L.A. the way he was expected to when the Kings forfeited Wayne Simmonds and Brayden Schenn for his services. The former Flyers captain saw a significant drop in power play production, only scoring 14 points on the man advantage, down from 31 in 2009-10. At times during the regular season, his struggles were so frustrating for new Kings'

head coach Darryl Sutter, that he placed Richards on a line with Dwight King and Jordan Nolan. But when playoff time came around, so did Richards—he scored 15 points in the Kings' 20 playoff games. That said, it's nearly impossible to justify paying him a cap hit of \$5.8 million through 2020.

Brad Richardson			C/RW										LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	24	81	11	16	27	1	12:50	0:06	1:24	1.2	2.8	-0.3	3.7
2010-11	LAK	25	68	7	12	19	-13	11:45	0:03	0:57	-0.4	1.9	0.0	1.5
2011-12	LAK	26	59	5	3	8	-6	12:51	0:14	0:46	-2.5	1.5	0.0	-1.0
2012-13	LAK	27	57.2	7.5	7.4	14.9					-0.9	1.3	0.0	0.4

Brad Richardson hasn't shown much in terms of production since 2009-10, when he scored 27 points in 81 games. At times, the five-foot-eleven forward has offered quality depth to the Kings roster in a defensive role, but during the playoffs, he was in and out of the lineup, being healthy scratched for seven contests. The former fifth round pick of the Avalanche does have a knack for drawing penalties, averaging 1.2 per 60 minutes, second only to the incomparable Brown.

Jarret Stoll			C										LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	27	73	16	31	47	13	17:25	3:03	1:53	5.8	3.6	0.1	9.5
2010-11	LAK	28	82	20	23	43	-6	17:09	2:31	1:29	3.5	3.4	5.2	12.1
2011-12	LAK	29	78	6	15	21	2	16:40	2:03	2:02	-1.1	4.3	-0.6	2.7
2012-13	LAK	30	67.3	10.1	15.4	25.5					0.6	2.7	0.1	3.3

A two-time second round pick, Jarret Stoll had a regular season to forget, with his offensive output more than cut in half from 2010-11. Still a very competent defensive center, Stoll won 55.0% of his faceoffs, with more than his fair share of them occurring in the defensive zone. Trailing only Kopitar among Kings' forwards in terms of penalty kill usage, he earns plaudits, although Corsi actually shows him as being less than effective in the role, with the Kings goaltenders seeing plenty of rubber in man-down situations with Stoll on the ice. Though durable, Lombardi may yet regret giving Stoll a Stanley Cup reward of a three-year contract, inked just before the start of this summer's free agency period.

Kevin Westgarth			RW										LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2010-11	LAK	26	56	0	3	3	-6	5:26	0:00	0:00	-2.5	0.4	0.0	-2.1
2011-12	LAK	27	25	1	1	2	-3	5:15	0:00	0:00	-1.3	0.3	0.0	-1.0
2012-13	LAK	28	42.4	2.9	4.2	7.1					-1.1	0.7	0.0	-0.4

A large, large man with limited, limited hockey skills, Kevin Westgarth is somewhat emblematic of the changing face of hockey, both in general and in the postseason. With the need for goonery having dropped league-wide, it disappears almost completely once the playoffs roll around. Westgarth, who has accumulated 153 penalty minutes and only five points in his 90 career games, was a healthy scratch 33 times last season and he inhabited the press box for the entirety of the playoffs. That said, you may think that you are a better hockey player than the 28-year-old, but you are not, no matter how bad his possession game has been throughout his career. The Princeton grad can also make a solid argument for being smarter than you, too.

Justin Williams			RW											LAK
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	28	49	10	19	29	3	16:22	2:01	0:13	3.5	1.8	0.6	5.9
2010-11	LAK	29	73	22	35	57	14	17:15	2:38	0:07	8.3	3.7	-0.2	11.8
2011-12	LAK	30	82	22	37	59	10	17:09	2:37	0:08	7.4	3.7	0.8	11.9
2012-13	LAK	31	73.3	21.6	34.6	56.3					7.0	2.8	0.0	9.9

Having played no more than 49 games in a season between 2007-08 and 2009-10, Justin Williams earned the fragile tag, which is a real shame, as he topped 30 goals in both years prior to that run of pain. Older, wiser, and healthier, Williams is back, not missing a single game—regular season or playoffs—last year after missing only nine contests the year before and scoring over 0.70 points per game in both seasons. A top-notch puck player, Williams had the highest on-ice Corsi among Kings forwards (21.2), which trailed only Alex Steen, Patrice Bergeron, and Tyler Seguin among NHL regulars.

DEFENSEMEN

Drew Doughty			RD											LAK
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	20	82	16	43	59	20	24:58	4:25	2:01	12.4	7.3	0.3	20.0
2010-11	LAK	21	76	11	29	40	13	25:38	4:10	2:02	4.6	8.5	-0.3	12.8
2011-12	LAK	22	77	10	26	36	-2	24:53	3:42	2:17	5.1	4.8	0.0	9.8
2012-13	LAK	23	75.9	10.9	31.8	42.7					6.2	5.2	0.0	11.4

At age 23, Drew Doughty has set himself apart as one of the NHL's best defensemen. This was never more evident than during the postseason, when he scored 16 points and was a +11 plus/minus. While his regular season scoring dropped from two years ago when he posted 59 points, the dip was a product of poor power play output, which has nosedived from 4.31 PPP/60 to 2.04 PPP/60. The 2008 second overall pick scored just 13 power play points in 2011-12 after 31 in 2009-10.

Davis Drewiske			LD											LAK
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	25	42	1	7	8	-4	15:14	0:12	0:55	-0.4	1.9	0.0	1.5
2010-11	LAK	26	38	0	5	5	-1	14:21	0:18	1:41	-0.2	1.5	0.0	1.3
2011-12	LAK	27	9	2	0	2	0	12:33	0:04	0:27	0.7	0.2	0.0	0.9
2012-13	LAK	28	35.8	2.4	6.1	8.5					0.7	1.4	0.0	2.1

Coming off a career year in 2010-11, Davis Drewiske had a disappointing season, at least on a personal level. The former Wisconsin Badger was limited to nine games played, and the vast majority of those missed games were elective, as Drewiske could not gain the trust of either of the men who coached the Kings. On the rare occasions when he was in the lineup, Drewiske was given very easy assignments, starting as far away from the Kings' goal as possible, while lining up against subpar opposition—and yet his Relative Corsi was still the worst among the blueline corps. He has already been surpassed on the depth chart by Alec Martinez, and expect him to continue dropping, with Thomas Hickey and Jake Muzzin angling for his spot on the roster.

Matt Greene			RD											LAK
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	26	75	2	7	9	4	17:28	0:03	2:46	-1.9	4.9	0.0	3.0
2010-11	LAK	27	71	2	9	11	3	16:58	0:05	2:35	0.2	5.7	0.0	6.0
2011-12	LAK	28	82	4	11	15	4	16:40	0:05	3:03	0.7	6.4	0.0	7.2
2012-13	LAK	29	67.4	3.3	11.6	14.9					0.5	4.3	0.0	4.8

One of the lesser lights along the Kings' blue line, Matt Greene is a defensive stalwart, as he was the most likely among the D-corps to begin a shift in his own zone. Like most quiet heroes, Greene shines the brightest on the defensive side, with nearly 90% of his GVT value coming on his own side of center ice. For further proof, note that his 15 points were a career high for the seven-year veteran. It is fitting that Greene was a part of the same trade with the Oilers that brought over center Jarret Stoll, as both men play similar roles for the club. You wouldn't want him on your fantasy team, but most NHL GMs would find a spot for the guy.

Alec Martinez		LD											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	22	4	0	0	0	-2	15:24	0:26	0:09	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.3
2010-11	LAK	23	60	5	11	16	11	15:16	1:45	0:04	2.5	3.3	0.0	5.7
2011-12	LAK	24	51	6	6	12	-1	14:43	1:46	0:07	1.0	1.4	0.0	2.4
2012-13	LAK	25	55.0	4.9	12.0	16.8					1.3	2.1	0.0	3.5

Alec Martinez was heavily sheltered during his 51 games, rarely being used against top competition or in important defensive situations, but he made the most of that advantage by dominating lower lines with a team-leading 16.7 Relative Corsi. The former Redhawk was +5 plus/minus in the playoffs, but with the Kings' post-season dominance—they had only three minus players—that only put him in the middle of the pack.

Willie Mitchell		LD											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	VAN	32	48	4	8	12	13	22:36	0:11	4:04	1.0	3.3	0.0	4.3
2010-11	LAK	33	57	5	5	10	4	21:48	0:06	3:24	-0.3	5.0	0.0	4.6
2011-12	LAK	34	76	5	18	23	20	22:13	0:42	3:35	2.5	9.6	0.0	12.1
2012-13	LAK	35	66.7	4.3	15.2	19.5					1.4	5.3	0.0	6.7

We are still waiting for Willie Mitchell to show the signs of aging, but during his age-34 season, he was as strong as ever. The former Clarkson D-man played exceptionally well in difficult minutes and was the Kings' number one penalty killer. The six-foot-three, 208-pounder tied for the NHL lead among defensemen with three shorthanded points (with Michael Del Zotto), part of a career-high 24 points scored.

Rob Scuderi		LD											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	31	73	0	11	11	16	19:16	0:04	2:33	-1.6	6.4	0.0	4.8
2010-11	LAK	32	82	2	13	15	1	20:17	0:03	2:46	-0.2	7.9	0.0	7.7
2011-12	LAK	33	82	1	8	9	-7	20:36	0:05	2:38	-2.7	5.8	0.0	3.1
2012-13	LAK	34	64.5	1.2	8.9	10.2					-1.2	4.2	0.0	3.0

There are no tweeners on the Kings' blueline. Each and every member of that crew knows exactly what his role is. Doughty, Martinez, and Voynov are the offensive trio, and Greene, Mitchell, and Rob Scuderi are the stay-at-homes. To illustrate the point about Scuderi, he had only 10 points in 102 games between the regular season and playoffs while hitting the ice for well over 20 minutes per game in both. Consistently given the toughest assignments on the squad, the Boston College grad more often than not neutralizes any and all threats. With one more season remaining on his contract, the two-time Cup winner may become the subject of bidding wars should Lombardi not offer him an extension.

Slava Voynov		RD											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2011-12	LAK	21	54	8	12	20	12	18:32	2:28	0:05	3.0	3.9	0.0	6.9
2012-13	LAK	22	62.3	8.2	19.1	27.3					3.2	3.3	0.0	6.5

Per GVT, Slava Voynov provided the fourth-most value to his team of any player who did not begin the season assigned to the NHL roster. Defiantly offensive and somewhat undersized, the rookie performed well enough when called up that the team felt comfortable dealing away power play quarterback Jack Johnson to Columbus. While no threat to be the top blueliner on any team also featuring Drew Doughty, the young puck-mover is a very respectable second wheel.

GOALTENDERS

Jonathan Bernier		G											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	Save %	ESSV%	QS%	GGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	21	3	3	0	0	1.30	.957	.961	66.7%	3.9	0.0	1.6	5.5
2010-11	LAK	22	25	11	8	3	2.48	.913	.920	63.6%	2.5	0.4	-1.3	1.6
2011-12	LAK	23	16	5	6	2	2.36	.909	.901	61.5%	0.5	0.5	-1.1	-0.1
2012-13	LAK	24	22.6					.907			1.4	0.2	-0.3	1.2

The subject of seemingly endless trade rumors, Jonathan Bernier is very talented, but stuck behind Jonathan Quick, one of the foremost goaltenders in the NHL. Yet before we sing his praises too loudly, it should be noted that Bernier's performance was below par last season, and that's even with the defensive corps keeping the puck away extremely effectively—only Chris Mason was more rubber shy at even strength. While Los Angeles could probably get comparable play from AHLer Martin Jones if they dealt the former 11th overall pick, the Kings might as well test Bernier's exceptional reflexes a bit more so as to improve his stock first. It's all about selling high.

Jonathan Quick		G											LAK	
Season	Team	Age	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	Save %	ESSV%	QS%	GGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	LAK	23	72	39	24	7	2.54	.907	.919	47.2%	1.6	1.8	-0.5	2.9
2010-11	LAK	24	61	35	22	3	2.24	.918	.921	63.3%	13.7	1.7	4.8	20.1
2011-12	LAK	25	69	35	21	13	1.95	.929	.933	68.1%	33.5	1.2	-0.1	34.6
2012-13	LAK	26	64.6					.918			19.5	0.9	0.6	21.0

As impressive as Jonathan Quick was during the regular season—earning a deserved spot as a Vezina finalist—his Conn Smythe winning performance in the playoffs put him in the conversation for the league's best goaltender. In the postseason, the Milford, Connecticut native won 16 of 20 contests while posting an incredible .946 save percentage. At six-foot-one, he has used top-level flexibility and a unique low-to-the-ice style that breaks the mold of today's typical six-foot-five goalie. But regardless of his fantastic regular season and playoff performances, no goalie in today's NHL is worth a 10-year, \$58 million contract.