

Pittsburgh Penguins

The 2011-12 campaign started off with big question marks for the two superstars of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. Crosby, the consensus choice for best player in the world (we're not going out on a limb here, are we?) had struggled to get onto the ice with lingering post-concussion issues, missing the entire second half of the 2010-11 season. His return was in doubt for opening night, and possibly beyond. Malkin, the Art Ross Trophy and Conn Smythe winner in 2009, had suffered through two seasons of decreasing games played, and more disturbingly, decreasing per-game production. Coming off a knee injury, it was possible that his age-22 season—three years past—would remain the high point of his career.

With their two superstars in the lineup, the Penguins would once again be top contenders for the Stanley Cup. But could Crosby make it back on the ice, and would Malkin bounce back for a solid season?

Evgeni Malkin

It was better than anyone should have hoped. And yes, fans will often hope for, and expect even more, but we're talking realistically here.

Malkin had nose-dived from 113 to 77 to 37 points from 2008-09 to 2010-11, and even considering less games played each season, he had dropped from 1.38 to 1.15 to 0.86 points per game. Prorating to 82 games, he would have only managed 71 points and 6.7 of-

fensive GVT in 2010-11, run of the mill, second line type numbers. Therefore, a tour de force Hart Trophy and Art Ross Trophy winning season, with a league-best 109 points and 33.5 GVT (best among skaters by 7.0 GVT) was more than a bit unexpected, even given Malkin's previous success.

Don't believe us? Check out the all-time greatest improvements in offensive production from age 24 to age 25 in the table on the next page.

You'll note that we chose to look at increases in Offensive GVT—which adjusts for scoring by era and debits for ice time—as basis of our comparison. Even considering the prorated 6.7 OGVT, Malkin would have blown away the field at +21.1 OGVT, a massive improvement. Ray Whitney's second place figures are even more inflated, considering his 12-game season in 1996-97; if you count the increase from his 4.4 GVT age-23 season to his breakout at age 25, he would remain on the list, but at +10.9 OGVT.

In many aspects, Malkin appears head and shoulders ahead of that group, which includes one Hall of Famer (Ciccarelli), a potential Hall of Famer, and a handful of solid players. As Malkin had two 100+ point seasons in the bag already, we know that last season wasn't a fluke...but then again they don't call it a peak for nothing.

A side note—if you can call it that—to Malkin's success was the fantastic season by his new wingman, James Neal, who was fourth in goals (40) while leading

PENGUINS IN A BOX

Last Season

Goals For	282	1st
Goals Against	221	12th
GVT	61	2nd
Points	108	4th

Playoffs Lost Conference Quarterfinal

In the handful of games when Crosby and Malkin played together, the Penguins were dominant, but goaltending let them down against the Flyers.

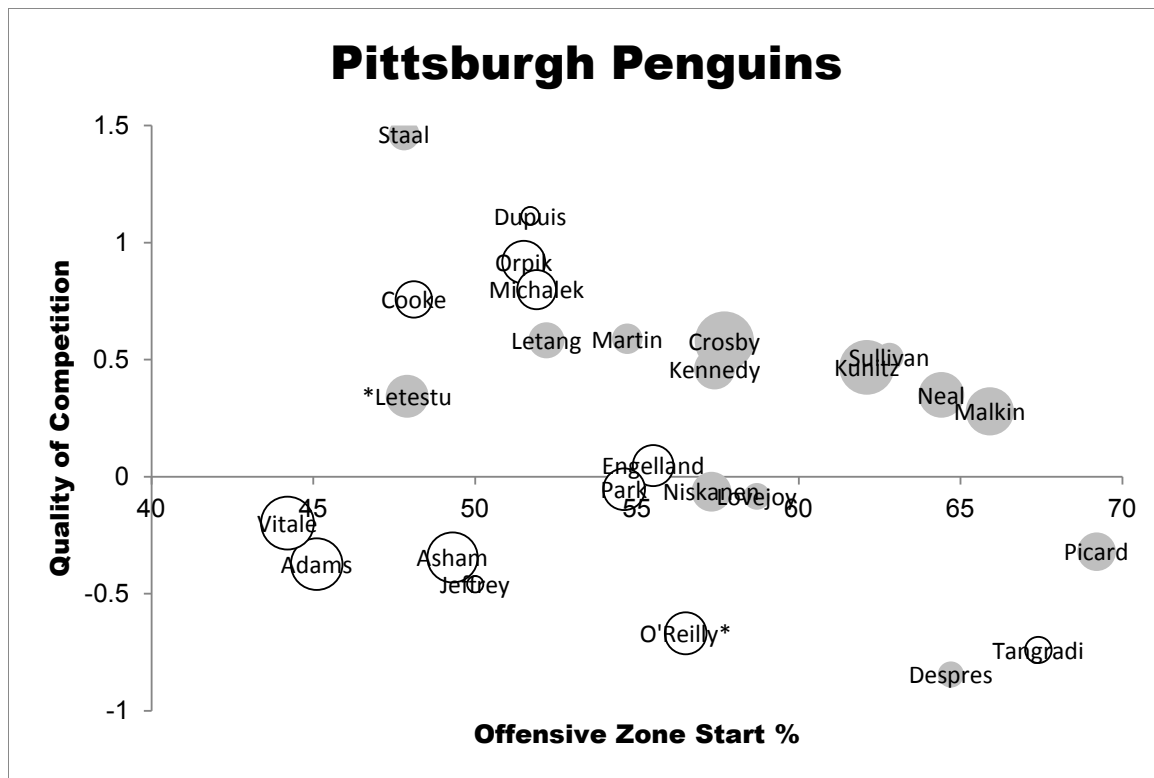
Three-Year Record

GVT	120	3rd
Points	315	3rd
Playoffs	3 Appearances, 12 Wins	

VUKOTA Projections

Goals For	249	1st
Goals Against	213	6th
GVT	36	1st
Points	104	1st

With Tomas Vokoun as a solid alternative to Marc-Andre Fleury, Pittsburgh hopes to have fixed their problems in net.



the league in power play goals (18). And his success was redemption for the front office. Neal was picked up by general manager Ray Shero at the 2010-11 trade deadline—in a challenge deal of sorts—for budding offensive defenseman Alex Goligoski. Pundits were quick to call the trade a victory for Dallas GM Joe Nieuwendyk, with the third-year power forward only managing a single goal and five assists over the remaining

month and a half while Goligoski—a blueliner!—lit up the scoreboard with five goals and 10 assists. However, in year two, Neal blew Goligoski away, coming in 13th among all skaters with a big 19.0 GVT while the former Penguins D-man managed a pedestrian 5.4 GVT.

The moral of the story, on the Stars side, is that trying to fix one problem by giving up a major asset is going to leave you treading water—at best.

All-time biggest increases in offensive production, age-25 forward							
Rank	Player	Team	Season	Age 24	Age 25	OGVT	Points
1	Evgeni Malkin	Pittsburgh	2011-12	3.5	27.8	+24.3	+72
2	Ray Whitney	Edmonton, Florida	1997-98	-1.0	15.0	+16.0	+63
3	Bill Goldsworthy	Minnesota	1969-70	-0.2	13.3	+13.5	+41
4	Charlie Simmer	Los Angeles	1979-80	6.8	19.7	+12.9	+53
5	Jason Allison	Boston	2000-01	3.6	16.3	+12.7	+67
6	Dave Creighton	NY Rangers	1955-56	-0.6	10.8	+11.4	+34
7	Dino Ciccarelli	Minnesota	1985-86	1.0	12.0	+11.0	+57
8	Kevin Dineen	Hartford	1988-89	1.8	12.7	+10.9	+49
9	Brian Bellows	Minnesota	1989-90	3.4	13.7	+10.3	+49
10	Gary Roberts	Calgary	1991-92	6.5	16.8	+10.3	+43

Age 24: Offensive GVT at Age 24
 Age 25: Offensive GVT at Age 25
 OGVT: Increase in OGVT, Age 24 to Age 25
 Points: Increase in points, Age 24 to Age 25

Sidney Crosby

Pittsburgh has done amazingly well without their captain, finishing the last two seasons with 106 and 108 points, better than any seasons that featured Crosby more prominently. But that's not to say they couldn't have been even better with him. In fact, they were.

In *Hockey Prospectus 2011-12*, we detailed how Sid had a half-season for ages: prorated to 82 games, a 64-goal, 64-assist, 132-point, 34.8 GVT effort would have ranked among the top 23 skater-seasons of all time, sharing the list with only the names Gretzky, Orr, Howe, Lemieux, Esposito, and Lafleur.

With and without Crosby, 2011-12							
Time period	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Crosby?
10/6-11/19	20	11	6	3	2.85	2.40	No
11/21-12/5	8	5	2	1	3.25	2.38	Yes
12/8-3/11	40	26	13	1	3.18	2.58	No
3/15-4/7	14	9	4	1	4.50	3.43	Yes
With or without	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	
Without Crosby	60	37	19	4	3.07	2.52	
With Crosby	22	14	6	2	4.05	3.05	
GP: Games Played				OL: Overtime Losses			
W: Wins				GF: Goals For per game			
L: Losses				GA: Goals Against per game			

Not surprisingly, the Penguins saw a big bump in their scoring each time Crosby returned to the lineup in 2011-12 (see table above). After missing the first 20 games, Sid helped bump the Penguins up from a slightly above league average 2.85 goals per game to an elite 3.25 (Philadelphia and Boston were tied for second with 3.17). After sustaining a 3.18 goals per game rate over the next 40 games without Crosby, the final month-plus with their captain proved to be an utter demolition of the Penguins' opposition. Their ridiculous 4.50 goals-per-game run included seven five-goal efforts and an eight-goal whitewashing of Winnipeg (one of four eight-goal games on the season).

After that display of offensive firepower, it was no surprise that Vegas installed the Penguins as postseason favorites.

Jordan Staal

The term seems to be thrown around lightly in saber-metric circles nowadays, but we concur in this case:

Jordan Staal is a *bona fide* "possession monster". Hold on, you might say—his Relative Corsi, a measure of on-ice vs. off-ice shot differential, was only 4.8, a mediocre ninth on the Penguins. And even if you account for the top competition that he faces, along with proportionately more starts in his own end of the ice, he was good, but not awesome in 2011-12.

But what is "possession" and why do we care?

Throughout this book, and elsewhere, you'll hear about metrics like Corsi and Fenwick, different variations of measuring shots on goal and shot attempts. While they deal with shots and shot differentials, they are often referred to as possession measures when they're really possession proxies—it has been shown that, overall, these stats correlate closely with puck possession.

But Corsi and Fenwick aren't measures of puck possession in a strict sense, and in certain cases (individuals or teams), these shot-based measures and actual puck possession measures—if we had such a thing—would diverge. And whether you care or not, and whether it ultimately matters or not, Jordan Staal seems to be one of those cases. Staal wins the puck on a regular basis, and he keeps possession in the offensive end. He was far and away the best Penguin at this skill, a true possession monster.

But which would you rather have, someone who is great at playing keep away, or someone who is influencing shot differentials in your favor? The answer isn't necessarily clear cut.

In any case, Jordan is no longer a Penguin, shipped out to Carolina on draft day. Brandon Sutter, an intriguing young two-way center, came back in return, and Pittsburgh will look to have him take on at least part of Staal's role.

While Pittsburgh will almost certainly take a hit at even strength for the loss of Staal, they stand to improve on the power play—while the Hurricanes will likely take a step backwards. Why? Jordan received significant power play minutes throughout his time in Pittsburgh, including some first unit time in 2010-11, even though he was consistently a terrible performer in this phase of the game (see table on the next page). How bad? Two seasons ago, his 2.33 PPP/60 was dead last among 43 forwards that received as much ice time. Among 79 skaters with as much power play time, only three defensemen, Michael Del Zotto (that was his bad year), Bryan McCabe (prior to his retirement), and Marc-Andre Bergeron, produced less.

Staal's struggles on the man advantage				
Season	PPTOI	Rank	PPP/60	Rank
2007-08	1:31	13th	3.42	8th
2008-09	2:19	9th	2.04	10th
2009-10	1:54	10th	1.19	11th
2010-11	3:09	7th	2.33	11th
2011-12	1:59	8th	2.96	8th

PPTOI: Power play time on ice per game
Rank: PPTOI rank among Penguins (20 GP minimum)
PPP/60: Power play points per 60 minutes
Rank: PPP/60 rank among Penguins (20 GP minimum)

The Penguins have been known for their difficulties on the man advantage in recent years (as shown in the following table), so while Staal was by no means the root cause of their struggles, the fact is that he did not belong in the role. Getting rid of inefficiencies is one step towards solving a bigger problem.

Pittsburgh's rebound on the power play		
Season	PP%	Rank
2007-08	20.4%	4th
2008-09	17.2%	20th
2009-10	17.2%	19th
2010-11	15.8%	25th
2011-12	19.7%	5th

PP%: Team power play percentage
Rank: NHL rank in PP%

While the likes of Crosby and Malkin, and some secondary players like Chris Kunitz, have been part of both the successful and unsuccessful years on the power play, it seems that key complementary players have greatly influenced the fate of the special teams unit. In particular, 2007-08 was Sergei Gonchar's last full season with the Pens (he played only 25 games in an injury-shortened 2008-09), while James Neal and Steve Sullivan were major contributors in 2011-12. The success and failure of the Penguins power play, in turn, has played a part in Pittsburgh's fortunes over the past five seasons.

Fleury and Vokoun

Up until last postseason, there was still a strong contingent of believers in the fact that Marc-Andre Fleury was an above-average NHL goaltender, often hinging on the fact that he has won a Stanley Cup, that he fre-

quently ranks among the league leaders in wins, and that he's "clutch".

Actually, Fleury's career save percentage of .909 is below average for a starter, and his .904 postseason mark is even worse. So, in fact, he is below average, and not "clutch". Even in the 2009 championship run, Fleury managed only 12 Quality Starts in 24 attempts *en route* to a .908 save percentage; the Penguins rescued four of the non-Quality Starts.

It was difficult to have a worse performance than Fleury had in their six-game loss against the rival Flyers this past postseason. Though he was a poor .891 and .899 in the prior two playoffs, .834 was almost unfathomable, even for a small sample of games. That said, Ilya Bryzgalov's .887 was at least as bad, considering he had five more games to work with (in fact, it was the lowest save percentage in seven or more postseason games since the 2004-05 lockout).

Finally, the body of evidence irrefutably pointed towards the need for an alternative to Fleury. The Penguins zeroed in on Tomas Vokoun, who was coming off a good but uneven season with the Capitals.

You might wonder what there isn't to like about Vokoun. The long-time Panther ranks third among goaltenders with 159.8 GVT since 2005-06, and while in his mid-thirties, he ranked top 10 in save percentage and even strength save percentage over the past three seasons. Still, Vokoun didn't get an extension from Dale Tallon in Florida, and had to settle for a one-year \$1.5 million deal from George McPhee in Washington, before getting a little more love from Pittsburgh. Maybe it's a bit of the Alex Semin vibe, where the sabermetric community values a player much more than the market does. Certainly, Jay Feaster didn't do him any great service by stating in a 2009 article that Tampa "scouts were not sold on Vokoun's ability to win a championship and thrive under big-game pressure" while concluding that "Some of the best trades remain the ones you never make." Then again, Feaster may have done the Penguins a service by helping drive demand and price down.

For next season, Fleury and Vokoun can share the load in the regular season, but when it's playoff time again, head coach Dan Bylsma should take a lesson from what happened to the President's Trophy winning Vancouver Canucks in their first round ouster by the eventual Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings: play your best goaltender, not your "established" starter, from Game 1. A goal here or there can make the difference between starting a series 2-0 or 0-2. Playoffs are about winning, not about avoiding hurt feelings.

Outlook

Stop us if you've heard this before. Given the health of superstars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, easily two of the five best skaters in the league, the Pittsburgh Penguins are primed for another 100+ point season. The supporting cast remains strong, even with the departure of Jordan Staal. In particular, the addition of James Neal and the emergence of Kris Letang have improved the lineup over the past two seasons,

though Shero failed to land a big name free agent like Zach Parise or Ryan Suter over the summer. But the under-the-radar signing of Tomas Vokoun may give the Crosby-and-Malkin Penguins a rare opportunity to get above-average goaltending for next postseason, which could turn out to be the missing piece to another championship.

Timo Seppa

FORWARDS

Craig Adams		RW/C											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	32	82	0	10	10	-5	11:05	0:03	2:43	-3.7	3.3	0.0	-0.4
2010-11	PIT	33	80	4	11	15	-5	12:11	0:01	3:05	-1.5	5.0	0.0	3.5
2011-12	PIT	34	82	5	13	18	-6	11:17	0:00	2:51	0.5	4.9	0.0	5.3
2012-13	<i>PIT</i>	35	62.8	4.6	9.3	13.9					-0.5	2.8	0.0	2.4

Harvard grad Craig Adams has been a useful role player for Pittsburgh since he was picked up off of waivers in March 2009, which was in time for him to raise the second Stanley Cup of his career. At even strength, he is frequently called upon to play on defensive zone draws, a Plan B for taking the faceoff in case the primary centerman is thrown out of the circle. However, Adams really shines on the penalty kill, where he plays roughly a quarter of his minutes; the Penguins have ranked ninth (84.1%), first (86.1%), and third (87.8%) shorthanded in Adams' three seasons with the club. All pretty good for a 35-year-old. And you know Adams has been in the league for a while, because he was a ninth round draft choice of...the Hartford Whalers. Actually, their last pick ever.

Arron Asham		RW											NYR	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PHI	31	72	10	14	24	-2	10:04	0:14	0:00	0.9	2.6	0.0	3.5
2010-11	PIT	32	44	5	6	11	0	9:33	0:01	0:00	0.7	0.7	0.0	1.4
2011-12	PIT	33	64	5	11	16	-5	9:14	0:03	0:00	0.6	0.4	0.0	1.0
2012-13	<i>NYR</i>	34	52.0	6.1	9.2	15.4					0.6	0.7	0.0	1.3

If you thought that Atlantic Division general managers had a thing for former Penguin Mike Rupp, with his off-season signing by the Rangers' Glen Sather, Arron Asham has now been a member of all five of its teams. Can we call out "Bingo" now? But if the Blueshirts are expecting a one-for-one replacement of Brandon Prust—a gritty, defensively-capable bottom-six winger—they will soon find that you get what you pay for. The 34-year-old Asham is at best a decent fourth line forward who can drop the gloves whereas the 28-year-old Prust fared well on difficult checking line assignments and was one of the top penalty killers on the league's fifth-ranked unit.

Matt Cooke		LW											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	31	79	15	15	30	17	14:47	0:55	2:33	2.6	4.3	0.0	6.9
2010-11	PIT	32	67	12	18	30	14	15:38	0:48	2:45	3.4	4.6	0.0	8.0
2011-12	PIT	33	82	19	19	38	5	15:40	1:11	2:32	6.5	4.7	0.0	11.3
2012-13	<i>PIT</i>	34	69.4	14.7	20.2	34.9					3.9	3.2	0.0	7.2

A year ago, reckless and agitating winger Matt Cooke had one foot out the door of the NHL due to various disciplinary issues. But now, perception of the 13-year veteran has radically changed, allowing more focus on his underrated play. Not only did Cooke avoid what had become frequent suspensions (thus playing a full 82 games for the first time since 2002-03) but he took a mere 44 penalty minutes on the season, good for only ninth on the Pens. That’s practically Lady Byng territory! And it’s not like Cooke completely stopped hitting, as he still threw 160 on the season. It was a triumph of mind over matter for Cooke, and the Penguins were rewarded for sticking with him.

Sidney Crosby													C			PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	PIT	22	81	51	58	109	15	21:57	5:00	0:53	22.5	3.4	4.1	30.0		
2010-11	PIT	23	41	32	34	66	20	21:55	5:25	0:28	15.0	2.6	-0.2	17.4		
2011-12	PIT	24	22	8	29	37	15	18:28	3:52	0:07	8.3	1.6	0.0	9.9		
2012-13	PIT	25	50.4	23.1	37.6	60.8					10.6	2.0	0.0	12.7		

You might have heard the saying “health is a skill”, with the implication that it’s not enough for a player to be talented if he is not able to take the field, pitch, or ice. The flip side of that sentiment is that health is a blessing, one that we often take for granted—at least we the spectators. It’s pretty certain that Sidney Crosby doesn’t take his health for granted. In 2010-11, health was the difference between 32 goals, 34 assists, 66 points, +20 plus/minus, and 17.4 GVT (over 41 games) and 64 goals, 68 assists, 132 points, +40 plus/minus, and 34.8 GVT (over 82 games). This past season, the Penguins captain sat out of an additional 60 contests, making it 101 games at the peak of his skills that we all have lost out on: Crosby, the Penguins, and hockey as a whole. How was his brief 2011-12 campaign? It was only 21 games, so take it with a grain of salt as a small sample size and all, but even half of Crosby’s elite even strength rate of 4.73 ESP/60 would have been considered top-six level—you could say that he played like the equivalent of two top-six forwards on the ice. If you want one quibble with his short-season stats, it was a big drop in faceoff rate, down to only 51.0%.

Pascal Dupuis													RW			PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	PIT	30	81	18	20	38	5	14:11	0:02	2:03	4.5	2.9	0.6	8.0		
2010-11	PIT	31	81	17	20	37	16	16:51	0:26	2:24	4.0	5.7	-0.2	9.4		
2011-12	PIT	32	82	25	34	59	18	16:55	0:23	2:16	12.7	6.5	0.0	19.2		
2012-13	PIT	33	74.3	21.1	29.2	50.4					7.2	3.9	0.0	11.1		

Pascal Dupuis has had the good fortune of playing on Sidney Crosby’s wing for the past few seasons, and with “possession monster” Jordan Staal when the Penguins’ captain has been out of the lineup. The 33-year-old winger set career highs across the board in 2011-12—in goals, assists, points, plus/minus, shots, and shooting percentage, and as a consequence, his GVT was more than double his previous best. The Laval, Quebec has shown little signs of age yet, managing an elite 2.76 ESP/60 at 5-on-5 while potting three shorties on the penalty kill.

Dustin Jeffrey													LW/C			PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT		
2009-10	PIT	21	1	0	0	0	0	8:35	0:00	0:00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
2010-11	PIT	22	25	7	5	12	5	12:58	1:54	0:22	2.3	0.9	0.6	3.8		
2011-12	PIT	23	26	4	2	6	-4	12:06	0:32	0:36	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5		
2012-13	PIT	24	37.9	7.8	7.8	15.6					1.3	0.9	0.0	2.2		

Though scoring at a promising point-per-game clip for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in 2009-10 and 2010-11, Dustin Jeffrey hasn't been able to translate his production to the NHL level—last season's 0.87 ESP/60 rate was anemic. One area where Pittsburgh could try Jeffrey is on the penalty kill, where he has a penchant of scoring shorthanded, like in 2007-08 when he tallied seven shorthanded goals for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds and in 2010-11 when he scored six for WBS.

Tyler Kennedy		RW											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	23	64	13	12	25	10	12:34	0:02	0:00	2.4	3.0	0.0	5.4
2010-11	PIT	24	80	21	24	45	1	14:31	4:28	0:18	7.1	1.1	-0.8	7.4
2011-12	PIT	25	60	11	22	33	10	14:22	1:24	0:00	6.3	1.7	0.0	7.9
2012-13	PIT	26	64.2	19.3	25.4	44.6					6.8	1.9	0.0	8.7

In 2010-11, Tyler Kennedy received power play minutes for the first time and responded with seven power play goals and a team-high 4.88 PPP/60. But a player's rates on the man advantage can vary greatly from year to year, based on changing fortune over what is a small sample. Sure enough, Kennedy's 5-on-4 on-ice shooting percentage dropped from 13.0% to 9.1%, his ice time was cut, and his power play markers dropped to zero while his production rate plummeted to 2.17 PPP/60. More importantly, the five-foot-eleven, 183-pound forward fares just fine at even strength, putting up a top-six caliber 2.14 ESP/60 and fifth-best 8.2 Relative Corsi.

Chris Kunitz		LW											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	30	50	13	19	32	3	16:26	2:19	0:12	4.7	1.4	0.3	6.3
2010-11	PIT	31	66	23	25	48	18	18:16	4:10	0:31	6.0	2.9	0.4	9.3
2011-12	PIT	32	82	26	35	61	16	18:18	3:31	0:08	8.6	2.3	1.6	12.5
2012-13	PIT	33	71.6	22.5	30.9	53.4					6.5	2.0	0.1	8.6

Sidney Crosby's other long-time wingman, Chris Kunitz, had a fine season despite the extended absence of the Penguins' captain, producing at a top-six level 2.22 ESP/60, outshooting the opposition (14.7 Relative Corsi, second best on the Penguins), converting 4 of 6 in the shootout, and chipping in 180 hits. In trading for Kunitz at the 2009 trading deadline, Shero not only added skill and grit for Pittsburgh's championship run, but helped solidify his top lines for years to come.

Steve MacIntyre		LW											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	FLA, EDM	29	22	0	1	1	-3	2:52	0:00	0:00	-1.0	0.2	0.0	-0.8
2010-11	EDM	30	34	0	1	1	-1	3:32	0:01	0:00	-0.9	0.2	0.0	-0.7
2011-12	PIT	31	12	0	0	0	0	3:10	0:00	0:00	-0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.2
2012-13	PIT	32	32.7	2.7	3.7	6.5					-0.1	0.6	0.0	0.4

If an enforcer doesn't get into a single fight over the entire season, what is he? Steve MacIntyre was like the sound of one hand clapping. Or punching.

Evgeni Malkin		C											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	23	67	28	49	77	-6	20:50	4:52	0:18	13.8	1.0	0.3	15.1
2010-11	PIT	24	43	15	22	37	-4	19:49	5:20	0:03	3.5	0.0	0.1	3.5
2011-12	PIT	25	75	50	59	109	18	21:01	4:21	0:02	27.8	2.2	3.5	33.5
2012-13	PIT	26	76.3	44.5	57	101.5					19.0	2.2	0.3	21.5

Evgeni Malkin had a monster season, winning his second Art Ross Trophy as the NHL's points leader while taking home his first Hart Trophy for best player. He was second to Steven Stamkos with 50 goals, third to Henrik Sedin and Claude Giroux with 59 assists, and his 109 points beat Stamkos by an even dozen. The former second overall pick from 2004 even excelled in the secondary phases of the game, posting a career-best 47.5% faceoff rate—which blew away his previous mark of 43.3% in 2006-07—and going 8 for 11 (72.7%) in the shootout. His league-leading 339 shots, superstar even strength rate of 3.66 ESP/60, and elite power play rate of 5.83 PPP/60 were all worthy of the best player in the game. A repeat performance is possible, if the commitment is there again.

Colin McDonald		RW											NYI	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	EDM	25	2	1	0	1	1	6:41	0:00	0:00	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.5
2011-12	PIT	27	5	0	0	0	0	8:28	0:33	0:00	-0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.2
2012-13	NYI	28	26.9	4.1	5.3	9.4					0.4	0.6	0.0	1.0

He was a finisher in 2010-11. Despite recording only 16 assists, Colin McDonald led the AHL with an impressive 42 goals for the Oklahoma City Barons, the highest total since 2006-07 for anyone not named Alexandre Giroux. McDonald's stat line pretty much flipped in 2011-12, to 14 goals and 35 assists. Go figure. Moving onto the Islanders this season, Garth Snow hopes he has gotten his hands on the next P.A. Parenteau.

James Neal		LW											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	DAL	22	78	27	28	55	-5	18:11	2:45	0:57	9.2	2.1	-2.7	8.6
2010-11	PIT, DAL	23	79	22	23	45	7	17:29	2:34	0:06	6.0	2.8	1.0	9.8
2011-12	PIT	24	80	40	41	81	6	19:08	3:55	0:01	17.2	1.0	0.8	19.0
2012-13	PIT	25	72.5	33.0	38.0	71.0					11.6	1.6	0.1	13.3

Small sample size, underwhelming linemates, trying to do too much by himself, snowballing bad luck: possible explanations for a lousy first 20 games in a Penguins jersey for James Neal, who was acquired at the 2011 trade deadline for Alex Goligoski. Neal tallied only six points, leading many pundits to prematurely proclaim the trade as a win for Dallas GM Joe Nieuwendyk. How many of those pundits would characterize it as a Stars' win anymore? Lined up with Hart Trophy winner Evgeni Malkin, Neal made the most of his first full season with Pittsburgh, tallying 40 goals, 81 points, 18 power play goals, and 30 power play points—good for fourth, seventh, first, and fourth among all players. Like Malkin, he blasted a ton of shots (329, second most in the NHL), posted an elite even strength rate (2.52 ESP/60), and excelled at the shootout (4 for 9). About the only knock on the power forward was taking more penalties than he drew, which seems unnecessary for a top forward frequently playing in the offensive zone.

Cal O'Reilly			C											KHL	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT	
2009-10	NSH	23	31	2	9	11	1	13:37	2:05	0:22	0.2	1.1	0.6	1.9	
2010-11	NSH	24	38	6	12	18	4	16:54	2:19	0:16	0.7	1.4	1.0	3.1	
2011-12	PIT, NSH, PHX	25	33	2	5	7	-11	12:45	1:25	0:13	-1.0	-0.6	-0.6	-2.2	
2012-13	KHL	26	41.1	5.9	9.4	15.3					0.3	0.6	0.0	0.9	

Cal O'Reilly was a hot potato, playing for Nashville, Phoenix, and Pittsburgh in 2011-12. Actually, as he didn't do much to distinguish himself, with an anemic 0.83 ESP/60 and 44.1% faceoff rate, he was more of a cold potato.

Richard Park			C/RW											Swiss	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT	
2009-10	NYI	33	81	9	22	31	-9	15:45	0:19	2:46	1.2	1.4	-0.5	2.0	
2011-12	PIT	35	54	7	7	14	-1	10:54	0:18	0:40	1.3	1.3	0.0	2.6	
2012-13	Swiss	36	47.8	6.7	8.8	15.5					1.0	1.1	0.0	2.2	

Richard Park spent the 2010-11 season with HC Geneve-Servette of the Swiss league before returning to the NHL in a utility role for the Penguins, the club that originally selected him way back in the 1994 NHL Entry Draft. The former Islander tallied only 14 points in 54 games with a career-high 15.9% shooting percentage offset by taking well less than a shot on goal per game. The 36-year-old Korean forward will be back in Switzerland again in 2012-13, with HC Ambri-Piotta, likely having closed out his NHL career.

Jordan Staal			C											CAR	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT	
2009-10	PIT	21	82	21	28	49	19	19:23	1:54	3:20	6.8	3.8	0.0	10.6	
2010-11	PIT	22	42	11	19	30	7	21:21	3:09	2:30	3.2	2.9	0.0	6.0	
2011-12	PIT	23	62	25	25	50	11	20:03	1:59	2:38	11.2	4.7	0.0	15.8	
2012-13	CAR	24	67.1	27	30.9	57.9					9.3	3.4	0.0	12.8	

The bombshell of the 2012 NHL Entry Draft, held in Pittsburgh, was the trade of two-way center Jordan Staal, a fan favorite. But fans in Pittsburgh knew Staal's intentions of playing with elder brother Eric in Carolina, so Ray Shero's handiwork received cheers, not boos, from the crowd. 10 years at \$6 million might be a solid price for a fantastic puck possession player who is even better at even strength than his Corsi numbers indicate, but it is also a big commitment to a centerman who lacks finishing skills and who barely exceeded a 50% rate in the faceoff circle for the first time. Unless Staal unexpectedly breaks out in the finishing department, some of his significant value will actually be given back through the Hurricanes trying to fit his square peg into a round hole; giving Staal big minutes on the man advantage—which seems inevitable given Carolina's commitment, but is so clearly not his forte—will likely drag down the Hurricanes power play while taking ice time away from more deserving players.

Steve Sullivan			RW/LW											PHX	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT	
2009-10	NSH	35	82	17	34	51	2	17:55	2:28	0:35	5.5	3.4	-0.2	8.7	
2010-11	NSH	36	44	10	12	22	4	16:01	2:43	0:36	1.9	1.8	-0.2	3.5	
2011-12	PIT	37	79	17	31	48	-3	15:21	3:38	0:00	5.6	0.1	-0.6	5.1	
2012-13	PHX	38	62.4	14.4	23.7	38.2					4.0	0.9	0.0	4.9	

The latest in a line of low-cost, low-risk, skilled veterans signed by Shero, Steve Sullivan was a modest success for the Penguins. Though equated with Pittsburgh's new-found power play acumen after years of struggles, the

puck-carrying point man's 3.79 PPP/60 was by far the lowest of the top five skaters in power play ice time, regardless of a second-best 16 power play assists. Signed by the Coyotes after the offseason departure of the resurgent Ray Whitney, Don Maloney needs to hope that Phoenix's fountain of youth duplicates The Wizard's health, if not production. While Whitney has averaged 76 games per season since the lockout, the injury-plagued Sullivan has averaged only 53, only twice topping 70 games in seven seasons.

Eric Tangradi		LW											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	20	1	0	0	0	0	13:49	2:45	0:00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2010-11	PIT	21	15	1	2	3	-4	11:12	1:39	0:02	-0.6	-0.2	0.0	-0.8
2011-12	PIT	22	24	0	2	2	-4	8:56	0:43	0:00	-1.4	-0.1	0.0	-1.5
2012-13	PIT	23	36.3	4.0	6.3	10.3					-0.3	0.6	0.0	0.3

Acquired from Anaheim as the cherry on top in the Chris Kunitz for Ryan Whitney deal, former second rounder Eric Tangradi instantly became one of Pittsburgh's top prospects. But things haven't worked too well thus far. Once touted as a promising power forward, Tangradi only has one goal and four assists in 40 career NHL games, and that anemic production actually got worse in 2011-12. Despite being bottle-fed very sheltered minutes, he still ended up underwater in possession while his 0.61 ESP/60 is equivalent to that of a bottom-three defenseman. Not a top-six scorer despite some solid skills, and not a bottom-six banger despite some size, no one really seems sure what Tangradi will be when he grows up.

Joe Vitale		C											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2010-11	PIT	25	9	1	1	2	-1	10:34	0:08	0:25	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
2011-12	PIT	26	68	4	10	14	-5	11:10	0:02	0:40	0.3	1.6	0.0	1.8
2012-13	PIT	27	60.7	6.7	11.0	17.7					0.0	1.4	0.0	1.4

Utilized similarly to Craig Adams, Joe Vitale saw a bunch of defensive zone starts but against lower level competition—he fit well in that role, winning 55.7% of faceoffs. The St. Louis native also helped create power play opportunities, as he was second on the Penguins with 1.2 Penalties Drawn/60. With Jordan Staal's departure, you might think that Vitale could see a bump up in his shorthanded ice time, but barring injuries, those minutes are likely to go to newcomer Brandon Sutter.

Jason Williams		RW											Swiss	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	DET	29	44	6	9	15	-7	13:31	2:28	0:00	0.7	1.0	0.1	1.8
2010-11	DAL	30	27	2	3	5	-2	8:06	0:27	0:00	0.2	0.3	-0.3	0.2
2011-12	PIT	31	8	1	1	2	1	10:34	2:13	0:02	0.4	0.1	-0.3	0.2
2012-13	Swiss	32	31.8	4.7	6.1	10.8					0.7	0.6	0.0	1.4

A few years ago, he might have been on your fantasy roster. Well, briefly. Jason Williams topped 45 points twice in his career, in 2005-06 for Detroit and in 2008-09 for Atlanta and Columbus—also two of the three seasons where he played over 60 games. Outside of those brief peaks at 0.73-0.84 points per game, the former Peterborough Pete has only managed an unspectacular 0.41 points per game over 295 contests. Spending most of 2011-12 with Pittsburgh's minor league affiliate, where he scored a solid 42 points in 59 games—he has 215 points over 249 career AHL games—Williams' struggles in the possession game (-13.6 Relative Corsi) when called up to Pittsburgh presaged a move to Europe for 2012-13.

DEFENSEMEN

Robert Bortuzzo							RD							PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2011-12	PIT	22	6	0	0	0	1	10:54	0:00	0:37	-0.3	0.7	0.0	0.3
2012-13	PIT	23	30.4	1.8	5.7	7.5					0.2	1.4	0.0	1.6

Born in the Staals' hometown of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Robert Bortuzzo got a six-game cup of coffee with the big league Pens after a solid three seasons at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, where he had compiled a +50 plus/minus in 205 contests while being assessed over a penalty minute per game. The six-foot-three blueliner only has 50 AHL points, so don't look for much more than a hard-nosed fill-in when he gets called up.

Simon Despres							LD							PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2011-12	PIT	20	18	1	3	4	5	14:13	1:06	0:35	0.7	0.9	0.0	1.6
2012-13	PIT	21	37.1	2.6	7.7	10.3					0.7	1.6	0.0	2.3

Six-foot-four, 214-pound Simon Despres fits the bill for what you would expect out of a late first round pick—toolsy, but needing a bunch of work to become a contributor at the pro level. Despres' strength is his stick-handling, but it often looks like his slapshot couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. Worse yet, in his own end, he is a scoring chance waiting to happen, and that's on the AHL level. Not surprisingly for a player who is on his heels in the defensive zone, Despres took over a penalty minute per game in the AHL, a ton for a guy who only had one fighting major—and that was the same for him in junior as well. That said, Kris Letang looked like an adventure on the defensive end a few years ago, and he has turned into a legit number one defenseman.

Deryk Engelland							RD							PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	27	9	0	2	2	-2	16:08	0:02	0:30	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
2010-11	PIT	28	63	3	7	10	-5	13:20	0:00	0:29	1.1	0.9	0.0	2.0
2011-12	PIT	29	73	4	13	17	10	16:08	0:00	1:01	2.6	3.6	0.0	6.3
2012-13	PIT	30	59.3	3.6	11.0	14.5					1.4	2.5	0.0	4.0

Though his fists were no doubt part of what got Deryk Engelland playing time in the first place, he has proven himself to be a solid third pairing defenseman, who can even fill in with more responsibility as needed. The physicality is still there, as he threw 174 hits, but his even strength scoring rate (0.94 ESP/60) was nothing to sneeze at.

Kris Letang							RD							PIT
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	22	73	3	24	27	1	21:33	2:49	1:22	3.3	3.0	0.7	7.1
2010-11	PIT	23	82	8	42	50	15	24:02	4:28	2:06	7.4	6.2	-0.9	12.7
2011-12	PIT	24	51	10	32	42	21	24:50	4:05	1:39	8.5	3.8	-0.9	11.4
2012-13	PIT	25	73.3	12.1	38.1	50.2					8.2	4.4	-0.1	12.5

When the Penguins won the Stanley Cup in 2009 and even the following season, Kris Letang was a secondary contributor on offense who was susceptible to the big error on defense. In particular, his gaffes were highlighted in the Penguins' second round upset loss to Montreal in 2010. He has taken off from there in a big way, though, scoring 0.61 points per game in 2010-11 and 0.82 points in 2011-12, and that's with Crosby, Malkin, and Staal missing big chunks of time. Last season, Letang led the Penguins with a +21 plus/minus while taking on nearly

the same level of competition as the shutdown pair of Orpik and Michalek. As a bonus, the Montreal native was only responsible for 0.1 Penalties Taken/60—a great overall performance at even strength. A step up in power play production could have Letang in the Norris Trophy discussion.

Ben Lovejoy		RD											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	25	12	0	3	3	8	16:37	1:02	1:28	0.1	1.6	0.0	1.8
2010-11	PIT	26	47	3	14	17	11	15:00	0:04	0:53	3.4	3.4	0.0	6.8
2011-12	PIT	27	34	1	4	5	3	13:15	0:02	0:31	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.2
2012-13	PIT	28	44.8	2.8	9.0	11.7					1.1	1.8	0.0	2.9

Ben Lovejoy paid his dues in Wilkes-Barre before he got a chance to be a semi-regular in Pittsburgh, but he has turned into a fine third pairing defenseman for the Penguins. Would you believe that Lovejoy's even strength production rate of 1.38 ESP/60 was second best among all NHL defensemen? Is it smarts? Is it luck? Certainly he hasn't struck fear into the hearts of his opposition by deking and driving to the net—Lovejoy drew a grand total of zero penalties over the course of his 34 games in 2011-12.

Paul Martin		LD											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	NJD	28	22	2	9	11	10	22:30	3:03	1:32	1.6	2.9	0.0	4.5
2010-11	PIT	29	77	3	21	24	9	23:21	3:02	2:44	0.9	4.8	0.0	5.7
2011-12	PIT	30	73	2	25	27	9	23:00	1:49	2:36	3.2	5.8	0.0	9.0
2012-13	PIT	31	65.5	4.2	19.6	23.8					2.2	4.2	0.0	6.4

Paul Martin has distinct strengths and weaknesses within his low key game. Once the only offensive conscience on the Devils defense, Martin provided secondary scoring for the Penguins at even strength, with a solid 0.84 ESP/60 rate (which was better than, say, that of Dennis Wideman). But while Martin is a worthy top-four defenseman at even strength, his 1.80 PPP/60 power play rate was about the minimum you could expect from a warm body on skates. He took on the tough competition as well, helping to shut down the opposition with 177 blocks. Though he kept in the way of the puck, Martin avoided taking the body, throwing just 24 hits over the course of the entire season. Not surprisingly, his penalty rate was also very low, particularly for a defenseman. But all in all, is he worth a \$5 million cap hit?

Zbynek Michalek		RD											PHX	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PHX	27	72	3	14	17	5	22:38	1:27	3:16	0.5	4.4	0.0	4.9
2010-11	PIT	28	73	5	14	19	0	21:50	1:11	3:46	1.3	4.6	0.0	5.8
2011-12	PIT	29	62	2	11	13	0	21:38	0:14	3:38	0.3	3.7	0.0	4.0
2012-13	PHX	30	59.6	3.3	12.5	15.8					0.7	3.3	0.0	4.1

Ever feel like there's a target painted on you? Zbynek Michalek opened the 2012 postseason by getting hit an incredible 14 times in Game 1, seven of them by Scott Hartnell. That's enough where you check yourself for tire treads at the end of the night. Michalek ended up getting hit 36 times overall in the six-game series—a ton—and he is a bodychecking magnet throughout the regular season as well. If that wasn't enough punishment, Michalek blocked 144 shots to boot. Kind of amazing that he is able to take the ice regularly.

Matt Niskanen			RD/LD										PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	DAL	23	74	3	12	15	-15	18:15	2:56	0:11	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.6
2010-11	PIT, DAL	24	63	1	9	10	-3	16:31	1:48	0:27	-0.4	1.3	0.0	1.0
2011-12	PIT	25	75	4	17	21	9	17:56	2:12	0:29	1.9	3.0	0.0	4.9
2012-13	PIT	26	62.1	4.2	15.3	19.5					1.6	2.6	0.0	4.2

We're pretty sure that Ray Shero—along with many other NHL general managers—would have loved to land prize free agent Ryan Suter in the offseason, to provide the Penguins with a second premier defenseman to go along with Kris Letang. After missing out on Suter and with Michalek's departure, Pittsburgh is left with promoting someone from their third pairing to a bigger role. And that someone is likely Matt Niskanen, assuming that a veteran acquisition is not made before NHL play commences again. The other piece of the James Neal for Alex Goligoski trade in February 2011, Niskanen proved himself to an extent in 2011-12: his 7.7 Relative Corsi was sixth on the Penguins, and his 21 points would have been considered wildly successful production if he played on the Devils blue line.

Brooks Orpik			LD										PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	29	73	2	23	25	6	20:05	0:05	2:53	2.6	3.9	0.0	6.5
2010-11	PIT	30	63	1	12	13	12	20:52	0:06	3:44	0.2	5.7	0.0	5.9
2011-12	PIT	31	73	2	16	18	19	22:33	0:03	3:20	0.6	8.1	0.0	8.7
2012-13	PIT	32	64.4	2.2	13.2	15.4					0.3	4.8	0.0	5.1

Bulldozing Brooks Orpik plays a teeth-rattling physical game, throwing a whopping 259 hits (eighth in the NHL and second among defensemen to Luke Schenn) to go along with 139 blocks, and all of that while facing the opposition's top lines. You might look at his -8.9 Relative Corsi, worst among the Penguins defensemen, and deem Orpik a second-rate shutdown defenseman, because he sure isn't known for providing offense. Why you might be right: when Pittsburgh raised the Stanley Cup in 2009, the Penguins number one shutdown pair, hands down, was Rob Scuderi and Hal Gill, while Orpik was more of a physical presence. Why you might be wrong: like Jordan Staal, Orpik performs better at influencing actual possession than shot differentials.

Alexandre Picard			LD										KHL	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	OTT, CAR	24	54	4	11	15	0	18:23	1:34	1:37	1.2	3.1	0.0	4.3
2010-11	MTL	25	43	3	5	8	0	16:25	1:01	0:34	0.1	1.2	0.0	1.2
2011-12	PIT	26	17	0	4	4	4	13:08	0:26	0:13	0.4	0.8	0.0	1.2
2012-13	KHL	27	39.2	2.1	7.7	9.7					0.5	1.6	0.0	2.1

A 26-year-old journeyman already playing for his sixth big league club, Alexandre Picard fared well in a small sample of games and sheltered minutes, posting a 7.3 Relative Corsi and a pretty impressive looking 1.14 ESP/60, the latter placing him 16th among all defensemen who played in at least 10 games. The even strength scoring rate was a bit of a mirage, as he managed only 0.58 ESP/60 in a half season-plus for the Canadiens in 2010-11, but then again, his Relative Corsi was a pretty impressive 19.7 that year, second only to Max Pacioretty. Throw in scoring over a half-point per game in four AHL seasons and it's mildly surprising that Picard signed in the KHL for 2012-13 as opposed to the NHL.

Brian Strait		LD											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	G	A	Pts	+/-	TOI	PPTOI	SHTOI	OGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2010-11	PIT	22	3	0	0	0	-1	13:32	0:00	0:10	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.2
2011-12	PIT	23	9	0	1	1	-2	12:53	0:00	0:23	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.2
2012-13	PIT	24	32.3	1.8	5.8	7.6					0.1	1.0	0.0	1.1

Brian Strait picked up his first NHL point in limited action while filling in for an injured Kris Letang, giving him one in 12 games overall. Don't expect too many more, though, even if he gets additional time as a call-up to Pittsburgh, as he has only recorded 40 points in 194 AHL games. That said, the Boston-born Boston College product plays a solid game, on the minor league level, at least. Strait has been good for +51 plus/minus over three seasons with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton—that's Ben Lovejoy territory.

GOALTENDERS

Marc-Andre Fleury		G											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	Save %	ESSV%	QS%	GGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	25	67	37	21	6	2.65	.905	.908	50.0%	0.3	1.1	1.2	2.6
2010-11	PIT	26	65	36	20	5	2.32	.918	.925	62.3%	16.5	0.7	4.9	22.2
2011-12	PIT	27	67	42	17	4	2.36	.913	.915	53.1%	8.1	1.4	3.5	12.9
2012-13	PIT	28	51.1					.910			7.1	0.7	0.8	8.6

As a former first overall draft pick and Stanley Cup winning goaltender, Marc-Andre Fleury has been given more than his share of chances, but with the signing of Tomas Vokoun on the heels of yet another disappointing postseason, his rope may be running out. Yes, Fleury had another solid regular season, with a roughly league average .913 save percentage despite a heavy workload of 64 starts, and yes, he was only one win behind league leader Pekka Rinne, with 42. However, he was the main culprit in Pittsburgh's first round loss to archrival Philadelphia, managing a nearly inconceivable .834 save percentage in six games. In all, since his hit-and-miss .908 performance during the Stanley Cup run, "Flower" has only managed an .880 save percentage in 26 playoff games. The Penguins might have been better off with Steve Mason—okay, just kidding—and they will certainly be better off with Vokoun.

Brent Johnson		G											Free Agent	
Season	Team	Age	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	Save %	ESSV%	QS%	GGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2009-10	PIT	32	23	10	6	1	2.76	.906	.914	53.3%	0.2	0.1	1.6	1.9
2010-11	PIT	33	23	13	5	3	2.17	.922	.928	70.0%	7.9	0.3	2.1	10.3
2011-12	PIT	34	16	6	7	2	3.11	.883	.887	35.7%	-7.6	0.4	-0.8	-8.0
2012-13	Free Agent	35	18.3					.904			-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1

The Penguins' early season savior in 2010-11, frequently filling in for a discombobulated Fleury in October, Brent Johnson could not duplicate his small sample success in 2011-12. The Michigan native went from a fine .922 save percentage (a career high) in 23 games to a dreadful .883 save percentage (a career low) in 16 games—yet another illustration of the great variability of year-to-year goaltending performance.

Brad Thiessen		G											PIT	
Season	Team	Age	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	Save %	ESSV%	QS%	GGVT	DGVT	SGVT	GVT
2011-12	PIT	25	5	3	1	0	3.72	.858	.875	50.0%	-4.7	0.1	0.0	-4.6
2012-13	PIT	26	12.4					.900			-1.1	0.0	0.0	-1.1

Brad Thiessen filled in for a couple of games, earning a handful of wins but not particularly distinguishing himself at stopping the puck. The Northeastern University product has had some up-and-down AHL seasons as well, following up a fine .922 campaign in 2010-11 with an .887 disappointment in 2011-12 for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton.