

2011 D-DAY POWER RANKINGS

Welcome to my first power rankings. Every year I try and predict how many points players will get, so I figured I would compose it into something a little more formal.

Below you'll find your team, with your 6 best forwards, 3 best defensemen, and best goalie. This isn't exactly an end of the year standings prediction, as I realize depth also plays a huge role in to your teams performance, but I don't feel like creating the matrix to try and figure out how that would affect everything, so I've left that factor out. This is just a bare bones, your studs vs. mine, royal rumble.

The one note, I didn't try to predict injuries either, and I think most GMs know my stance on that. However, for any player currently on injured reserve, that was taken into account.

Now on with this show...

22nd – Assassins

540 points

Forward F –

J. Eberle – 64
M. Lucic – 62
V. Leino – 56
D. Perron – 54
W. Wolski – 51
T. Seguin – 47

Defense E +

D. Doughty – 57
A. Pietrangelo – 48
A. Larsson – 23

Goal D –

S. Mason – 78



If the Assassins are still offering their 1st rounder in 2012, I'd jump on top of it. The team is a complete disaster. It's been 21st, 21st, 22nd and well on their way to another 22nd. I feel a bit sick starting off with this one, and I don't even own the team.

With their most glaring weakness being forward, the Assassins set out for the draft with two picks in hand. They kicked things off by selecting another prospect defenseman in Adam

Larsson, and then journeymen Michael Ryder, who is bad enough he didn't make this top six. Think about that for a second, he didn't make THIS top six.

Now all is not lost. The defense on this team is actually pretty attractive. Doughty, Alex P and Larsson all have great upside and a good 15 years in them, so Moran can be happy he's shored up there. But God Almighty, is another last place going to look bad on his resume.

Don't expect this team to even sniff at the playoffs.

Prediction: **DNQ**

21st – Battalion

557 points

Forward **E +**

J. Tavares – 79
T. Hall – 68
R. Clowe – 64
M. Moulson – 58
M. Grabner – 56
B. Gionta – 53

Defense **F +**

B. Seabrook – 45
M. Gragnani – 34
M. Staal – 33

Goal **E –**

N. Backstrom – 68



The ~~New York Islanders~~ err, ~~Brampton Battalion~~ err, Bryce Battalion are trying to turn things around. They really are. They've been proactive in addressing certain holes in their roster, and put up a solid performance last season when they surprised everyone by making the playoffs. Despite that effort though, this team is still a lightweight.

The goaltending. It really sucked before, and now it just sucks. The crappy part about that upgrade though, is they traded their 1st rounder to do so. Oh boy Brad. One year from now, when the Vanguard are selecting an absolute nugget with that pick, you're going to be kicking yourself. Brace yourself, there will be no jersey unveiling that year for you.

Thankfully, no matter who is taken, you can sleep knowing you have Tavares and Hall carrying the load. Now it's up to you to find a way to give them some support. With no 1st rounder

though, I just don't think you'll be capable of providing them with enough to repeat last years Cinderella story.

Prediction: **DNQ**

20th – Shrubdogs

576 points

Forward **D**

J. Spezza – 79
M. Havlat – 73
T. Connolly – 66
D. Backes – 61
P. Berglund – 59
R. Nugent-Hopkins – 50

Defense **F**

C. Colaiacovo – 39
C. Franson – 35
P. Kubina – 29

Goal **C –**

M. Brodeur – 85



Did you hear that?

It was the sound of a dog that looks like it was sketched by my 5-year old, hitting the ground after it let go of Martin St. Louis' coattails.

Now, there is no denying having RNH on this team was the best for the franchise, and they got full value for Martin St. Louis, but losing him is going to have huge impact on this team.

There are some GM's, actually most GM's, who believe in injury prone players. I better hope Adam isn't one of them, because that top 3 may be the most fragile top 3 ever. Spezza, Havlat, and Connolly. Nathan, what are the chances all three of them play 82?

I also must point out how bad this defense is. Franson and Nikitin starting the year as the 7th man, Coli injured. They have one healthy D to start the year, Pavel Kubina. Now if that doesn't make you chuckle, I don't know what will. What a Shrubbing.

I think the big question for me here though is, where do the Shrubdogs go. Do they continue the youth movement, and re-build properly, or do they get cold feet like Daryl and pull the plug midway through the plan?

Prediction: **DNQ**

19th – Platinum Pros

577 points

Forward **F**

P. Sharp – 74
J. Neal – 61
M. Grabovski – 59
P. Hornqvist – 54
B. Wheeler – 54
B. Laich – 53

Defense **D +**

C. Fowler – 48
R. Suter – 45
D. Wideman – 42

Goal **B –**

P. Rinne – 87



Ok, we're out of the 20's now, but Daryl is just barely out of Suckville. He's so close he can still smell the suck, they're grasping at him like an army of undead zombies. Join us! But he's out.

Now, I thought the Pro's did a wonderful job last draft, and with a handful of juicy picks lined up for the 2011 Entry, the future was looking very bright. I was excited for them and I was looking forward to see what he had in store. Who he was going to compliment the youth movement with. Huberdeau and Murphy? Nope. How about a little Zajac, with some Suter sprinkled on top. Can't teach an old dog new tricks I guess.

Led by Fowler, and Rinne the backend here is solid. It's the lack of firepower that hurts. Thankfully, the Pro's do have a good amount of depth so they should be able to roll their lines, play the man games, and avoid injuries. Just enough to keep them out of a top pick they would've moved for a vet anyways.

Prediction: **DNQ**

18th – Goldminers

586 points

Forward E –

L. Eriksson – 73
J. Pavelski – 71
M. Cammalleri – 64
D. Brown – 62
J. Hudler – 52
M. Michalek – 46

Defense D

E. Karlsson – 54
J. Pitkanen – 45
J. Blum – 32

Goal B +

R. Miller – 88



Oh, how the mighty have fallen. Last year was the first the Goldminers regressed in points. I'm sure if you ask Heske, they were working on their defensive coverage, but it appears it was a sign of things to come. Some truly eyebrow raising deals have left this team in a bit of a downward spiral. I'm sure the Jawas are just licking their chops at this, owning their 1st rounder.

Interesting sidenote: Of the bottom 5 teams, 3 do not own their 1st rounders. If you're wondering who are the minnows, and who are the sharks, there is your answer.

Back to the Miners though. Some good players here. Eriksson, Pavelski, Karlsson and Miller are all top notch. The real problem is the lack of depth. Hudler and Michalek are optimistically projected for 100 points combined. If there happens to be an injury, anywhere in the lineup, they're in big trouble. Girardi is the only D, they have no backup goalie, and prospects in the reserve for forwards.

You can see what the Miners are trying to do here. Adding key pieces like Nino, Tarasenko, and Blum to compliment the core of Karlsson and Tedenby, but this is being built on unstable ground. No draft picks coming up, and one injury and you know the 1st '13 is out the window.

You can take Heske out of the pinto, but you cant take the pinto out of Heske.

Prediction: **DNQ**

17th – Spartans

592 points

Forward **F+**

R. Kesler – 75
A. McDonald – 67
S. Weiss – 62
T. Oshie – 61
A. Ladd – 56
N. Filatov – 46

Defense **C+**

K. Letang – 57
K. Shattenkirk – 49
K. Timonen – 34

Goal **C-**

C. Ward – 85



Petey! I can't say anything bad about him, so I won't. I think he surprised everyone last year with his draft, and performance. Especially after struggling the year before. 6th place is quite an accomplishment.

He pocketed a JR (Oshie for Savard), and schooled the draft (Shattenkirk and Ladd). Despite that, his team still has some glaring holes, and a lot of work to do. Losing Rafalski definitely hurt, though he did a good job to replace him with Timonen.

What he really needed, and I'm sure he knows this, was that solid 6th forward. But when Kuznetsov fell into his lap, he made a decision to add a project. It doesn't come without a price though, and this year is going to be a lot tougher because of it.

Solid goaltending and defense won't be enough to outweigh their lack of scoring forwards, and a fall back down to reality.

Prediction: **DNQ**

16th – Vanguard

592 points

Forward **B**

R. Getzlaf – 92
E. Staal – 80
P. Kessel – 73
V. Lecavalier – 73
T. Ruutu – 58
E. Fehr – 47

Defense **D**

D. Phaneuf – 45
S. Gonchar – 44
M. Carle – 43

Goal **F –**

C. Schneider – 39



Oh Griff. Griff, Griff, Griff. You're my early vote for the Milbury.

You own one of the sexiest top 4 in the league. Getzlaf, Staal, Kessel, Lecavalier. Just mint. You're obviously not tanking. Top division, went out and got Gonchar. So what in God's name are you doing with your goaltending situation?

Seriously.

From a rookie GM I can buy it, but you're a vet. Schneider as your starter? Or is it Neuvirth? Who cares, cause neither is going to get you any points. No excuses, this is a complete ball dropping by you.

See how mad I was? I almost forget Fehr is your 6th best forward. Fehr!? And you have Radulov protected! And the you went and drafted Joe Morrow. Oh man, my head is spinning here. Someone needs to confiscate your top forwards ASAP, because you don't know how to use them.

Prediction: **DNQ**

15th – Tornadoes

592 points

Forward C –

E. Malkin – 98
C. Stewart – 72
M. Hejduk – 62
J. Staal – 59
D. Brassard – 58
T. Purcell – 56

Defense E

A. Edler – 52
K. Russell – 36
A. MacDonald – 32

Goal E –

J. Reimer – 68



They grabbed Malkin. They dropped Backlund. They scooped up Hejduk. After 4 years of embarrassment, you can see the Tornadoes are trying to change their prospect salivating, Bryan Little 90-pointing, blue chip humping ways. but when highly touted.. ooooohh.. highly touted eh Kev? He loves those two words. When highly touted Couturier slipped in the SCHL Entry Draft it might as well have been a black hole. He was clawing at the table, reaching his hand out to mGelly, Paik and Petey, anyone. But it was too late. He was sucked in. From the Philadelphia Flyers, Sean Couturier! That felt good.

This team has Malkin now. An absolute beast. Said to look like he is in the best shape of his life. No Crosby in front of him. The Tornadoes have gaping holes in goal and defense, so what's a good GM to do? Draft another prospect forward of course.

That all said, Purcell was a much needed addition, and a great value pickup for where he got him, but this team was poised to really make some noise. With the dogfight he has ahead of him in Bronze, I think he'll be attending DNQU for his Master's.

Prediction: **DNQ**

14th – Triads

609 points

Forward **D +**

R. Nash – 79
A. Hemsky – 78
M. Hossa – 71
T. Fleischmann – 64
J. Voracek – 58
M. Pacioretty – 53

Defense **E**

J. Liles – 47
I. White – 37
S. Elliott – 35

Goal **B –**

C. Crawford – 87



After the logjam from 15-19, the Triads give themselves some breathing room here. A solid team throughout. The Triads boast two awesome goalies, Crawford and Quick, and a potent top three forwards in Nash, Hemsky and Hossa.

The glaring weakness here is D. I think they did a great job in the draft addressing their defense issues, but it really needs to be taken to a new level to crack that top 10. This team actually owns some great depth in all positions and I predict the Triads will have a bounce back season.

I think they will make right on the cusp of making the playoffs, but just wont have the horses to pull it off.

Prediction: **DNQ**

13th – Heartbreakers

610 points

Forward D

Z. Parise – 82
M. Ribeiro – 69
J. Skinner – 68
J. Franzen – 65
D. Alfredsson – 63
O. Jokinen – 55

Defense C

J. Wisniewski – 53
P. Subban – 51
R. Ellis – 35

Goal E +

J. Hiller – 71



Another front runner for the Milbury. The Heartbreakers turned the ship around last year, and managed to finish 14th, despite losing their best player to injury for the entire season.

Primed with a healthy Parise, confident Skinner and cocky Subban the HB's went out and drafted nobody that would complement their starting lineup. 5 picks, and not one upgrade.

This is a slick looking team too. Some great players on all fronts, and I think Tony is going to regret not drafting them a better supporting cast. But not as much as I am going to cringe everytime Read, Frattin, or Postma score a goal though and I have to scroll past a print-screened TSN Home page. Thankfully, that shouldn't be too often this year.

Tony is a wheeler and dealer though. The season is long, and his track record speaks for itself. If anyone has the balls and dedication to turn things around it is him, and as a fellow unbeaten SCHL Streeter, I'm rooting for him. I think he bucks his DNQ streak and sneaks into the playoffs.

Prediction: **First round**

12th – Devils

611 points

Forward E

S. Stamkos – 102

P. Bergeron – 63

E. Kane – 58

R. Umberger – 55

K. Versteeg – 49

B. Marchand – 48

Defense A

M. Green – 58

K. Yandle – 57

T. Gilbert – 33

Goal B +

T. Thomas – 88



Great forwards, defense and goal. Unfortunately, there isn't really enough to go around. What the Devils really need is another bigtime forward, and unfortunately, Cleary is not that guy. Marchand is a nice little addition, but little tweaks like that wont make much of a difference. They'll live and die by their Big 4.

These guys are kind of the anti-Gryphons. Wicked goal tandem, elite defense and a mess of forwards. Take away Stammer, and you have a forward crop that would give the Assassins nightmares.

Moving in the right direction, but still not enough for their first playoff birth.

Prediction: **DNQ**

11th – Akulas

615 points

Forward D –

J. Carter – 76
T. Plekanec – 64
S. Doan – 63
B. Dubinsky – 62
J. Williams – 59
N. Antropov – 57

Defense B

T. Enstrom – 55
M. Giordano – 45
J. McBain – 42

Goal A –

I. Bryzgalov – 93



Just on the cusp of the top 10. The Akulas had a great first year, finishing 8th overall and riding a hot streak all the way to the SCHL Final, before ultimately losing out to the powerhouse Bullets.

They really landed on their feet when Bryzgalov signed in Philadelphia, and I'm sure the Akula management is expecting a big season from him. What is really separating them from the big boys is their lack of quality forwards. Of course Carter is a beaut, and should put up close to a point-per-game, but after that it drops off fast. They do have a fair amount of depth, and hopefully they can play the odds there and make up a few points. I do like that they have both Bobrovsky and Bryzgalov, as I think he serves as a great prospect and of course backup goalie.

It's back to the playoffs for these big boys, but it won't be a repeat of last year.

Prediction: **1st round**

10th – Hydras

618 points

Forward C

I. Kovalchuk – 80
D. Roy – 76
P. Marleau – 75
D. Stafford – 63
K. Okposo – 60
B. Morrow – 54

Defense A –

D. Keith – 54
Z. Chara – 46
J. Carlson – 44

Goal F

K. Lehtonen – 66



The newest addition to the SCHL, Barca inherits one hell of a team with one hell of a legacy. Hailing all the way from Abbotsford, armed with a logo that wasn't winning any awards, the Hydras did not exactly make a huge splash into the SCHL.

In fact, it took a little bit to get comfortable, but after a few months of soaking things in, the three-headed monster... or no wait, this is an Abby Hydra... the one-headed monster was ready to strike.

They landed Chara, and I must say, did a great job solidifying their backend as one of the best. It did come with a big price though. Losing a protect spot, plus a 1st in 2012 and the 10th overall who could've been a Ryan Murphy or Stefan Elliott. But they got points now, and that's always a good thing.

Should be a good first year, but not great.

Prediction: **2nd round**

9th – Express

621 points

Forward **D**

B. Ryan – 77
J. Benn – 70
J. Jagr – 64
P. Mueller – 60
P. Bouchard – 58
S. Kostitsyn – 57

Defense **A+**

L. Visnovsky – 64
D. Boyle – 56
M. Zidlicky – 44

Goal **E+**

C. Anderson – 71



Anyone who thinks D doesn't make a difference, look no further than the Express. Sexy forwards are great, but you'll never see someone take home the WG without a potent backend. And you'll never see me take someone home without one either. Ha.. ha.. geez, tough crowd. You would've thought Blake just made the 5th overall pick with the crickets there.

Anywho, the Express added a ton of vets this draft. From the breathtaking Jagr at 9th, to the enigmatic SK, and oft-concussed Bouchard, when the dust finally settled, they replaced half of their starting forwards. They boast an extra 4 interchangeable 50-60 point forwards, and another good goalie, with a plan of making up some ground using the schedule to their advantage.

Obvious issue here is goal, as both Anderson and Roloson bring up big question marks. Can Andy repeat his small stint with Ottawa last year? Can Rolly continue his strong pre-season play? Time will tell.

Don't expect another dance in the final four, but should show last years DNQ was a blip.

Prediction: **1st round**

8th – Rowdy Kilts

627 points

Forward C

P. Datsyuk – 85
H. Zetterberg – 83
D. Briere – 73
A. Burrows – 59
R. Callahan – 59
A. Kostitsyn – 48

Defense B

B. Burns – 52
B. Campbell – 47
S. Souray – 43

Goal D

J. Howard – 79



It's amazing the Kilts manage to stay in contention for as long as they do. There is no team, and that includes the Goldminers, that throw their 1st rounders around (or any draft picks for that matter) like GM Rattray does. But at the end of the day, they haven't finished below 7th place since Dallas won the Stanley Cup and Wayne Gretzky was still playing hockey.

Their ability to stay on top has to do with having the foresight to spot diamonds in the rough like Burns, and Souray. Now Souray may not always be referred to as a diamond, but the fact he added him for nothing and turned around a crumbling D, into his teams strongest asset is telling.

The problem moving forward is like a broken record. Now strong draft picks. Sooner or later this has to catch up with them, and maybe it already has. Are the Kilts ever going to be able to get back into the elite without a youth injection?

Prediction: **2nd round**

7th – Gryphons

635 points

Forward **A+**

M. Gaborik – 83
C. Giroux – 80
A. Semin – 78
M. Duchene – 75
P. Stastny – 72
D. Heatley – 72

Defense **F–**

M. Del Zotto – 36
P. Martin – 32
D. Hamhuis – 30

Goal **D**

T. Vokoun – 79



Is there anything more comical than the Gryphons situation?

Here you have the absolute sexiest group of forwards, and a complete disaster on the backend. Literally the best in the league, to the worst in the league. Heatley as their worst forward is unfair. But Del Zotto as their best defense is a joke. Paik is a great drafter, but when it comes to that killer instinct, he falls way short.

This team could have dominated, and should be in contention every single year.

Prediction: **2nd round**

6th – Bullies

636 points

Forward C+

S. Crosby – 100
M. Koivu – 76
L. Couture – 62
J. Pominville – 58
J. van Riemsdyk – 58
C. MacArthur – 55

Defense D

R. Whitney – 52
K. Bieksa – 40
J. Corvo – 37

Goal A

H. Lundqvist - 97



Narrowly edged out the Gryphons and would have finished even higher if Crosby were not such a question mark.

Carl is slowly starting to turn things around after a rocky first year that saw him finish 18th. Some astute trades, most notably acquiring Mikko Koivu this off-season, and a new drafting strategy that included taking players who will not be used exclusively for drops at the end of the season is paying off.

At the end of the day, it doesn't really matter though. And that is the blessing and the curse of this team. The Bullies will come and go as Crosby does.

Prediction: **2nd round**

5th – Swordsmen

648 points

Forward B –

J. Thornton – 79
M. Richards – 74
D. Krejci – 71
A. Tanguay – 68
M. Erat – 60
J. Jokinen – 60

Defense A –

S. Weber – 51
D. Byfuglien – 49
T. Kaberle – 43

Goal B +

J. Halak – 88



After getting screwed on a playoff birth, and first overall pick, the Swordsmen received news to start the season that their number one pick, Brett MacLean was being placed on waivers. Seriously? Can a guy catch a break around here? Fortunately, it has zero bearing on their performance this season.

The good news is the Swordsmen still rock. They have stellar D, goaltending and forwards. Really balanced production on all fronts. Not a ton of depth, and that ultimately could be there downfall, but they have demonstrated the ability to go out and get players before when they gift-wrapped a 2nd + Mueller to rent Hedjuk for a couple weeks.

Not quite good enough to make the final four, but damn close!

Prediction: **2nd round**

4th – Tycoons

649 points

Forward B

- A. Ovechkin – 106
- N. Backstrom – 85
- T. Selanne – 74
- R. Whitney – 55
- D. Booth – 55
- D. Stepan – 52

Defense C –

- N. Kronwall – 48
- C. Pronger – 45
- A. Markov – 45

Goal C –

- M. Kiprusoff – 85



Was it merely a blip on the radar, or was the Tycoons falling to 3rd a sign of things to come? Thankfully a summer long Selanne rain dance halted what could have been a catastrophic blow to this team, and a steep decline in the rankings. However, I still don't see them in the top 3. After moving Hemsy, they're the best of the rest. But not in the elite company anymore.

This team boasts plenty of firepower, but it is just concentrated in the form of the Washington Capitals. They'll live and die by those boxscores.

There is a nice amount of depth here though, with Smyth, Frolik, Kulikov and Niemi that should provide some bonus points if used right. A slight slip to 4th is predicted, but the savvy GMing of Johnston should keep them falling much further than that.

Prediction: **Final Four**

3rd – Barracudas

665 points

Forward **B +**

C. Perry – 93
B. Richards – 86
T. Vanek – 72
N. Horton – 69
P. Elias – 63
S. Hartnell – 52

Defense **D –**

N. Lidstrom – 54
C. Ehrhoff – 46
S. Robidas – 30

Goal **A +**

C. Price – 101



Awesome forwards, and what could be the best goaltender in the league, the chance is there for the taking. Coming off a WG win, the Barracudas decided to tinker with their recipe. Moving Gonchar and Zajac for a little more youth down the road.

Long-term this could prove to be a good move, but there are also only so many opportunities to have your name go down in the history books. With Lidstrom, Perry, Richards and Price all in great situations, that time is now.

Barracudas are poised to make some noise this year, but will ultimately fall short.

Prediction: **SCHL Finals**

2nd – Bullets

677 points

Forward A –

P. Kane – 86
A. Kopitar – 83
J. Toews – 80
J. Iginla – 79
S. Gagne – 63
N. Kulemin – 61

Defense C +

T. Myers – 48
J. Johnson – 47
E. Johnson – 45

Goal B –

M. Fleury – 87



The Bullets have been climbing up the standings for 5 years now, and have taken home the Snipers Cup three of the last four. Things are looking golden, and they got a little brighter when they were able to land the 2nd overall pick in the draft and add Huberdeau to their farm.

Their defense could use a little work, but great forwards, goaltending and depth has the Bullets sitting pretty again this year. However, there is a new top dog in town...

Prediction: **Final Four**

1st – Screamin' Jawas

689 points

Forward **A**

D. Sedin – 101
H. Sedin – 97
M. St. Louis – 95
C. Kunitz – 57
V. Prospal – 56
R. Malone – 55

Defense **B**

M. Streit – 54
A. Goligoski – 51
A. Babchuk – 38

Goal **B –**

R. Luongo – 87



Wow, what a bomb. Not one to shy from the spotlight, the Jawas kicked the 2011 Draft off in style when they dished out the first overall pick in exchange for a game changer.

This trade was huge, and put the critics to rest. The Jawas can smell the blood and they're going in for the kill. Adding a 95 point player like St. Louis in today's NHL, while losing no points in the process, is a massive upgrade.

Couple that with the fact this team owns both Sedins (good for 200 points), two excellent defensemen (Streit and Goli), and a lock for huge points in Luongo and what you have is this year's WG winner. In fact, I don't even think it is close at this point, and I also believe Cam will actively look to build on his advantage and seek out some better 5th, 6th forwards and 3rd defenseman.

Prediction: **Sniper's Cup Champ**

For the SCHL, I'm Derek Day.