

THE COMMISH'S 1ST ANNUAL SUMMER FRANCHISE VALUE REPORT (2008)

Preface: On the heels of Cam's Team Value thread, I thought how could I come up a simpler, albeit rudimentary, way to figure out who had the overall best franchise? And the best way I could think of is if we re-drafted today, with all the information available today, how the draft would play out.

Basically what I've done is taken all the protected players and put them in order as if 22 teams re-drafted today. I've tried to take into account the overall consensus of all the players. The associated value with each player is the spot they were drafted in. For example, Crosby would be the consensus 1st overall choice and he would have a value of 1. Now obviously the team with the lowest score has the best overall franchise value. Then further to that I've only counted each team's lowest ranked 10 players (or top 10 players). Figuring that 10 players is a team's core and the final two players will just be two throw away guys. So the average score for a team should be 1,105 (Picking 1st in a 22 team redraft gives you the 1, 44, 45, 88, 89, 132, 133, 176, 177 & 220 picks). Trust me all 22 spot add up to 1,105. If your team value is below 1,105, you've created value and if you're team value is above that you've lost value. It's confusing, especially writing this, but you get the idea.

I have not took into account high draft picks...well because you can't draft, draft picks. Obviously some teams hold some pretty high picks entering the draft next month, but there has to be some kind of cut off. Next year's rankings with reflect those luscious snipes. So do you get it? I'm not going to disclose the entire list, I don't want everyone to know my rankings, but I will disclose certain rankings of notable players. So here we go! PS - This is in no way a prediction of season preview! I can't stress that enough; it's only the value of a team, not what they'll do with it this year!!!!

22) DENROCHE REGIME (1,767)



The Regime check in at 22, the lowest value of all the SCHL teams. Since their inception into the SCHL in 2003, the Regime have always been the ugly step child. Four straight consecutive DNOs and a best 13th in the WG race will do that to you. GM Brian Denroche, however, has always tried to field a competitive team, even if it meant foregoing any future value in the franchise. That all changed last year when they shipped out their all time best player, Olie Jokinen, for their lowest valued (= best player) Ilya Bryzgalov, who lands himself at the 100th draft position. Along with Bryz came Alexander Cherapanov, whose stock has recently plummeted since his non-existence and the emergence of the KHL praying on young Russian talent. To make matters shockingly worse for the Regime, they shipped out their stud Dman Rafalski (59th) for what would be their franchise forward, Alexander Radulov. He's since flipped the NHL the bird and signed up with the KHL. What would be a 2nd or 3rd round pick, Radulov's value has plummeted to dead last, tied with only Ladislav Nagy. Dumont (121st) and Bryz make up the team's best assets. The Regime hold a top pick in this year's draft, so improving on 1,767 shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Denroche knows it's a long road ahead, but it's a lot shorter than the dead end road he's been on for the last five years.

21) DAY EXPRESS (1,522)



It's not surprising a franchise run by the Moth Balls then the Korp are second to last in this ranking. Two straight last place WG finishes are symptom of a terrible team. The team is now in good hands with experienced and proud Derek Day. In an attempt to collect points the Express have moved out some pretty attractive players in Riberio

(60th) and Okposo. Time will tell how his early deals have turned out. Turriss tops this team as its most valuable asset, parking himself in the 32nd position. Other notable assets include Pitkanan (97th) and Oshie (114th). 2008-2009 will mark the inaugural season for the Express. I predict this team will not be 21st in this ranking next season.

20) SAMPSON BRAHMAS (1,508)



Two years ago this team was finally starting to establish itself as a top tier team advancing to the Frozen Four and being promoted from Bronze to Silver (and since to Gold). Since then, however, the assets have walked off the job. Miller, McCabe, Mueller and a tasty 1st rounder were replaced with drops and mediocre fodder. The shocking part of this drastic value erosion was that it seemed almost voluntary. Recently the Brahmas have traded for other clowns in Stempniak (235th) and Kuba (232nd), who both come outside the Brahmas top 10 assets. The team still has two quality players of some value, Savard (24th) and Horton (95th). Beyond that, however, is a dog's breakfast only a schnauzer would enjoy. This team is two trades away from being an expansion team. The days of completing for a division title are done.

19) DIAMANTAKOS SPARTANS (1,481)



Established in 2006, the Spartans haven't had much time to lower their overall value and to make matters worse, the Spartans have not come out of the gates firing on all cylinders. Quite often they're too timid to make a deal or to move one of their players, suffering from homerism. It happens to us all; we fall in love with our bums, thinking they've got something of value. The first overall pick in 2006, Cam Ward slots in as their highest draftee at 38th overall. Recently added Shawn Horcoff (84th) has substantially dropped this team's value number - which is good, remember? - and Letang (93rd) rounds out a solid threesome. However, after that the cupboard becomes pretty bare. The team is stock full of guys that could shoot up the draft ladder by next summer with breakout seasons and with the 3rd overall choice in this year's draft, next summer should prove to be an improvement over this year's value ranking.

18) DEDRICK DEVILS (1,452)



Like the Express, they will begin their inaugural SCHL career in 2008-2009, so this ranking is no fault of their own. However, I would say they have improved it since taking over the former Riggs mid season last year...notably acquiring Patrice Bergeron (66th) from the Assassins. Like their expansion cousins, their team is full of younger players waiting to breakout. But their real nugget is Mike Green (26th) who's last season shot up the draft list big time, with 56 points manning the potent Caps PP. Green and Bergeron, two quality assets any team would love to get their paws on, will be joined by the 1st overall pick in the 2008 draft. While that pick is not included in this value ranking, it's sure to sky rocket the Devils, who will replace their worst player on their top 10 Ohlund (199th) with a future stud. This 'stud' is sure to crack sub 30 on the draft board.

17) VANCOUVER MILLIONAIRES (1,414)



There's no point in harping on the Millionaires for the umpteenth time, but I can't help but still ponder the deal that sent Iginla (10th) to the Bullets for Brule (195th) and Esposito (197th). They also moved Alfie last year for more of a youth movement. With the recent rebuilds by the Millionaires and Assassins, it'll make any GM question a decision to gut with such great teams. The Millionaires leading value adder comes from

Rick D (62nd). He's been a staple on the Millionaires for a while now. Jeff Carter checks in at 78th along with Justin Williams at 92nd. The Millionaires are fortunate enough to own the 4th and 6th overall choices in this year's draft. These two picks will hopefully lower their value ranking, but we all know what can happen to a prospects value. (IE Brule & Espo) The Millionaires have a long road ahead of them, they lack a high end prospect to help shoot them up the standings. But I expect with some of the young guys in their system, come around next year they'll improve on their 17th placing in this ranking.

16) MORAN ASSASSINS (1,409)



It's been a fall from grace for the Assassins. Since their 6th place showing in the WG race in 2007, the Assassins have once again began to rebuild. Their most prized positions checks in at the 85th pick, Timonen. The next three would land somewhere in the late 5th rounds: Kariya (102nd), Wolski (106th) and Kovalev (107th). After that however is become pretty thin, but it will be replinshed with the 2nd overall pick and 8th overall pick in the 2008 draft. Those picks will surely lower the teams value ranking and thus improving their team. Sean can only hope that by next summer he imprvoves on this ranking, after trading away Gonchar (31st) and Alfreddson (43rd), you hope the assets you've gotten in return will put them in a better position to win long term.

15) MA BAY TORNAOES (1,354)



Like the Assassins, the Tornadoes have plummeted in the rankings over the past two years. Head scratching deals involving moving players for 1st rounders have sent this team into a tail spin. Jordan Staal, their highly touted draft pick from 2006 hasn't exactly lit the world on fire as one might have thought after becoming a Pen. Instead of parking himself on the top line PP, Staal finds himself in more of a defensive role with the team. On the plus side, however, the Torandoes own the top drafted goalie in Loungo (8th). Cheechoo (94th) is the team's second best asset and he could easily climb the charts again if he can find anything that resembles the 05-06 season. As the years pass Nylander (108th), Arnott (119th), Redden (140th) will continue to drop in this mock draft and erodeing value for the Tornadoes. To counter those players; however the team is hoping Little (196th) or Brassard (142nd) can replace them and hold their value constant. The team does have the 5th overall pick in this year's draft, so next summer should be an improvement over this year's rankings.

14) TARPAN HORSES (1,274)



This will clearly show you why the new rule, which forces all teams to have their first 13 players be of NHL calibre, necessary. The Horses finished up 20th in the league last year, yet had some very quality assets on their team. Their top ranked Dman, Kaberle, checks in at 45th, with Richards (54th) and Mueller (67th) rounding out a good threesome. Other assets of note include Weber (72nd) and JVR (112th). Once JVR makes his NHL intentions known, he'll scream further up the charts, lowering the Horses overall value ranking. The Horses are headed in the right direction now and with some more startable players on their bench the Horses should not finish up 20th in the SCHL like they did last year.

13) STEIER 79ERS (1,250)



Will the 79ers get religated by year's end? After winning it all in 2007, the 79ers have been on life support lately. The team owns the lowest three players in the draft, Sid (1st), Joe (6th) and King Henry (14th). That's quite a trio. Couple that with Gagne and Lidstrom and next year the 79ers should be in for a great year. Sakic is the wildcard here, I've rated him 146th, right around Sundin and Selanne. His return will obviously

drop their value ranking and improve the overall value of their team. OK, so now you're thinking, *How does a team with that threesome, not even break par for overall value?* (1,250>1,105) Well, when you look at the depth of the 79ers: Kozlov, Aucoin, Guerin, and Ouellett, all four would be drafted in the 12th round of a redraft from the protected players. Add in the non-protected players, I'm not even sure they'd be drafted at all in the 16 rounds. Breaky'd!

12) UPTOWN HEARTBREAKERS (1,189)



The Heartbreakers increased by 7 spots in the WG race last year and have dug themselves out of the basement in the value rankings. They're slowly approaching par in this ranking and their ranking could easily jump high after this year's draft. Why? Well, their top assets Jokinen (29th), Parise (55th), Chara (57th) are countered with some really mediocre players at the bottom, once replaced with better players, will cause this team to improve in their value ranking. The bad news; however, in increasing their team value to 1,189, they've left themselves with only 2 picks in this year's draft, with the highest being 65th overall. It'll be tough to improve their ranking for next year as some of their players increase in age.

11) HESKETH GOLDMINERS (1,164)



The 2006 expansion Goldminers have climbed all the way to near par of 1,105 in their short two years. Their two top assets come courtesy of two inferior teams in the Brahmas (Miller 39th) and Regime (Cammalleri 56th). Homegrown dman Burns lands at the 82nd position. Those are some pretty solid additions to an up and coming team...AK, Brown, Koivu and Hudler round out the middle of the team and if any of those four can make the jump in the draft the Goldminers will continue to climb. After those the herd gets thin quick. Older replaceable players make up the rest of the team. With hours of Franking and the 11th overall pick, I'm sure the Goldminers will improve their value for next season.

10) FRANSON SHRUBDOGS (1,099)



The Shrubs are the first team on this list to have created value with an overall value ranking of 1,099; six spots better than 1,105. If we re-drafted today, most teams would look like the Shrubdogs. Really toying the line for the Shrubdogs is their big man, Jason Spezza (4th). St. Louis (40th), Campbell (53rd), Rafalski (59th), and Pominville (65th) round out the Shrubs core. I think that's a reasonable core we'd all enjoy if there was a redraft scheduled for September 27 of this year. The Shrubs have used up a lot of assets to get to this point, with no 1st rounder in 2008 or 2009, they'll be looking for some late round snipes to buoy their ranking on this list!

9) BELLAMY BARRACUDAS (1,007)



Adding to their busy logo, the Barracudas have had a busy offseason acquiring the 2nd overall pick from the Express, then acquiring Sergei Gonchar for that pick. Carey Price leads the pack at the 19th overall pick for the 'Cudas. Gonchar (31st), Vanek (33rd) and Richards (44th) rounds out his top four. Like the Shrubdogs, the Barracudas have created slight value in their team, but it's more or less a team right smack in the middle. A solid team with upside. I've ranked Perry at 79th, and I know Nathan has a hard-on for this guy. If he can put a quality season together he'll shoot up into the top 50. With no 1st rounder in 2009, this team, like the Shrubdogs, better hope to have some snipes up their sleeves if they want to maintain, or drop, their value ranking going into next summer.

8) LEE TRIADS (1,003)



The Triads are looking good moving themselves into the top 10. They haven't made the playoffs in their 1st three years of their SCHL career, but that should change this season being in the lowly Bronze Division. Hossa is their big gun, landing himself in the 21st spot of the draft. Nash (42nd), Gagner (77th), and Doan (89th) all get in before the 100th pick. The Triads still own the 17th overall pick in this year's draft, along with young guns Voracek and Cogliano. This team will probably continue to climb the value rankings list, but are guaranteed they won't get passed by the Barracudas, Shrubdogs, or Goldminers in next year's ranking. Climbing the ranking much further than 8th will be daunting, as you will see.

7) RATTRAY ROWDY KILTS (928)



The Kilts come in as the first team to have created some real value. Don't get this confused with where they'll finish year in the WG standings, as I see them as better than a 7th place team, but their team is aging and Jagr has moved away. The team has the luxury of having 5 players all taken in the first two rounds: Zetterberg (11th), Datsyuk (22nd) and Brodeur (36th). Briere and Boyle around out the last two. McCabe (75th) slides in as their next most valuable player, but after that there's a real drop off. The older more replaceable forwards don't garner much interest (as evidenced by Naslund for a 4th rounder), but do have utility in the real world. The Kilts don't have a 1st in either 2008 or 2009, but that hasn't stopped this team from staying on top in the past. They'll probably increase on this ranking for next year's ranking with a JR from some helpless GM.

6) PAIK GRYPHONS (790)



Always known for their drafting, the Gryphons land with 790 points on their value ranking. They've really created some value with their drafting over the years. Put it this way, the Gryphons will have drafted all their top 10 before the end of the 6th round. Prospal lands as the team's 10th player. He's ranked 129th on the board. The Gryphons lead the way with Heatley (5th). In recent years the Gryphons have been unable to parlay their franchise value into winnings. This just goes to show you that this ranking only details what a team is worth, not their chance of success. Obviously teams with a lower ranking have a better opportunity to win, but it still takes GMing to win it all. Something the Gryphons have been unable to do. GM Ryan Paik is probably more concerned with this list, than the WG race.

5) GROSSMAN FLASH (735)



The Flash are a staple in these types of rankings...always getting the most out of their draft picks and continually on top. Last year was no different. The Flash's greatest asset is none other than Ilya Kovalchuk, who tips the scales at the 9th overall choice in the draft. He'd be higher on the draft board if he had a team with a future. The Flash's top 8 would all be drafted before the middle of the fifth round. Okposo (96th) was a scoop on the Express, losing Sullivan (227th). The Flash enter this draft with 6 draft picks and still own their 1st rounder. I'm sure they'll be able to improve on some of their lower top 10; such as Duncan Keith (163rd) and Milan Michalek (123rd). The middle of the team is what makes the Flash so good; players 2 through 8 average a 63rd overall pick, good for a mid 3rd round pick.

4) MITCHELL VANGUARD (705)



After many years of farming, the Vanguard have really created some sexy value. They're lead by Lecavs (7th), Staal (15th), Dion (16th), and Getzlaf (25th). Not many teams can boast that foursome. Sundin ranks 148th and that ranking will change accordingly once he gets off his ass and decides if he's playing this season or not. Kessel (70th) is a real x-factor...he might be a bit high on my rankings, but he's got the tools to explode...but who knows if that'll ever happen. **3rd year breakout**

Dobbering!! The Vanguard will be looking to work in a 3rd dman as Carle (171st) is their 3rd dman as of now, with one of their 2nd round selections in this year's draft. This team is young and hot and I don't see any value erosion from now until next summer. A score of 705 is downright sexy.

3) JOHNSTON TYCOONS (626)



The reigning WG Champs chime in 3rd in the rankings. They're the oldest team in the top 6, but have two of the highest guys on the board...only the 79ers, I believe have better. Ovy (2nd) leads the charge, with his line mate, Backstrom (12th) second on the team in terms of value. The Tycoons top 7 players would be drafted all before the end of the 4th round. The latter part of the team is built with vets and Dmen. Selanne and Frolik were not counted in the top 10, but their stock could easily rise or plummet

depending on how this season plays out. With no 1st in 2008 and only 3 picks, the Tycoons will hope some of their younger players can push harder to increase the team's overall value...but it will be hard to go any further to pass the next two teams. In any event, the Tycoons own the 3rd lowest value score at 626.

2) NORTH SHORE SCREAMIN' JAWAS (602)



This is what 7 years of building and Malkin will get you in the 1st annual value rankings: 2nd! The Jawas top 9 would have been drafted before the end of the 4th round. Malkin (3rd) leads the charge on this squad with Alffy, Turco and the Sedins (49th and 50th) right behind him. Forsberg (246th), currently not in their top 10 could unseat one of the lower ranked players if he decides to sign back in the NHL, but even then he'll be injured not soon after and his stock will once again drop. The Jawas proved to be one of the best

teams last year so this year will be another of the same. They own two 1st round picks, but will be hard pressed to clean up the lower end of their top 10, Bernier (131st) and Streit (87th).

1) WILSON BULLETS (588)



If you're ever asked *"if you could switch teams with anyone, who would it be?"* Your answer is: the Wilson Bullets. With a score of 588, the Bullets are 47% more valuable than the par team of 1,105 and 67% more valuable than the Regime. Those numbers are monstrous. Think about this for a moment, their top 5 players would be drafted in round 1 of a re-draft. Iginla (10th), Kopitar (13th), Toews (17th), Kane (18th) & MAF (20th). This doesn't include Johnson & Johnson (68th & 128th) or Zherdev (81st). Smyth rounds out the

top 10 at 143rd, but he could easily be replaced with the Bullets 15th overall choice in the 2008 draft. The Bullets came from 7th in the WG last year to winning it all, but I think that's the last time they'll be considered a Cinderella story. This is one of the best cores of all time. The problem GM Mr. Wilson faces is, is he ready to cannibalize some of this sexy value-ness for more championships as other teams go for the gusto? Having a top value team doesn't always equal success...what the hell am I on about? I musta forgotten they won last year!

Final Scores:

Rank	Team	Score
1	Bullets	588
2	Jawas	602
3	Tycoons	626
4	Vanguard	705
5	Flash	735
6	Gryphons	790
7	Rowdy Kilts	928
8	Triads	1,003
9	Barracudas	1,007
10	Shrubdogs	1,099
11	Goldminers	1,164
12	Heartbreakers	1,189
13	79ers	1,250
14	Horses	1,274
15	Tornadoes	1,354
16	Assassins	1,409
17	Millionaires	1,414
18	Devils	1,452
19	Spartans	1,481
20	Brahmas	1,508
21	Express	1,522
22	Regime	1,767

For the SCHL, I'm Blake Johnston.