

## Offsider

Predicting playoff hockey is truly a speculative matter; it seems that all teams save their best for the playoffs because hockey really matters then. My system is relatively simple: cheer for the team which defeats the team I like. It always works, but probably will not this year. This year I like the Rangers, but... I think Montreal will win the Adams Division. I would like to see either Buffalo or Hartland do it, but Montreal had the better goaltending. Remember that Boston's Andy Moog is a good playoff goaltender, but the Bruins do not have enough in front of him. Buffalo had to get its defense or generate offense. Detroit looks good in the Norris. I doubt that the North Stars are able to repeat last year's heroics. It has been suggested that Chicago is waiting for the playoffs so it can explode. St. Louis had to inject a physical aspect into the team to compensate for too many finesse players.

The Rangers have a good chance of winning the Patrick, but the Devils are starting to turn it on. This division is really close, and this makes each team play really well in divisional games. Each team is equally strong, but they know each other's weaknesses well. Vancouver has had such a great year; it would be upsetting if the team could not carry its spectacular play to the conference finals. The Kings have a better chance of winning the division now that they have Coffey, but goaltending will be their downfall; how much can Kelly Hrudey do? I doubt Edmonton's potential; Winnipeg will end up a joke. Calgary has the potential top score a lot of other teams. But I like the Rangers. They are easy to defeat because of pressure is put on offensive defensemen, they fold. Their goaltending is great. So, whoever defeats the Rangers in a playoff series gets my vote for the Stanley Cup. I think that the divisional threats will be Boston, Chicago, New Jersey, and Calgary. Who knows?

I hate to admit it but even an eternal optimist like myself has to admit that it doesn't look like the Maple Leafs will overtake the North Stars for the final playoff spot. Yet I will point out that no question, the Leafs have a much better team than the North Stars. I can't believe that the Leafs lost at home to the Chicago Black Hawks. It is great to see Osbourne back in Toronto, he is one of the best checkers in the NHL and Toronto is one of the best hitting teams. Let's look at some tell-all stats

## Number of shots per game

1. Hull 5.67	11. Messier 2.68
2. Mario 3.72	12. Recchi 2.60
3. Yzerman 3.61	13. Tocchet 2.59
4. Clark 3.53	14. Muller 2.43
5. LaFontaine 3.48	15. Leeman 2.37
6. Sakic 3.11	16. Roberts 2.36
7. Raenick 3.09	17. Gallant 1.71
8. Dampousse 3.03	18. Probert 1.50
9. Wayne 2.94	
10. Bourque 2.73	

## Average Penalty minutes

1. Probert 4.37
2. Kevin Stevens 3.42
3. Roberts 3.16
4. Clark 3.00
5. Roenick 1.30
6. Messier 1.09

## +/-

1. Messier +33
2. Roberts +20
3. Roenick +18
4. Roberts +10
5. Stevens +3
6. Clark -1

## Shooting %

1. Roberts 25.4	
2. Ray Ferraro 24.6	A DLOOY CLAR
3. Probert 22.5	
4. Lafontaine 22.4	
5. Recchi 21.6	
6. Robitaille 19.7	
7. Muller 19.3	
8. Tie between Clark, Mario and Yzerman at 17.2	
9. Hull 17.1	
10. Messier 16.9	
11. Yzerman 16.2	