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Tune in every month for a jam packed Newsletter. The Team will wrap up all the happenings of the previous month as well as include numerous fun facts and trivia to keep you entertained.

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Q & A with Adam

By Kwest

Q: Where did the idea for MetroHO come from?

A: I thought it would be fun to play a hockey manager but I couldn't find one I liked.

Q: Did you think it would be this successful?

A: METROHO is fun and different. How could you go wrong?

Q: What do you consider a success for the game?

A: The biggest success the game has seen is the activeness and creativity of its core community. Player-run tournaments are amazing. I also like the feedback the community gives as well as its good eye for suspicious activity.

Q: How long do you intend to run the game for?

A: Until my team has a losing season and I angrily quit. If I don't play, no one does.

Q: What is the long term goal for METROHO?

A: To keep improving and to enlarge the community.

Q: Any plans to take the game mainstream?

A: Yes. But first, I want to see the game improve more. I want to be confident that our simulator generally produces realistic outcomes and I want to add some more big features like betting & prizes, for example.

Q: What are your favorite features you've added?

A: The ability to ban players. The new drafting system and The Medallion were ok though, too.

Q: What about the game really gets on your nerves?

A: Besides the players, I don't like it when my team loses. It's also stressful when things behind the scenes go wrong. Like when everyone lost their draft picks about 6 months ago.

Q: A lot of folks dislike being called out on the Suspicious Trades forum and it can at times give teams a negative tag associated with them. Any thoughts to this?

A: For the most part, I feel the reporters and the people being reported have been very good sports about the obvious awkwardness involved. After being reported, I find that people are very forgetful of suspicious trades even if the person was found guilty of cheating. If either the person is cleared of cheating or takes the necessary steps to receive a clean slate, in time, the community will both forgive and forget. Some of the top GMs in the game, including some which are leaders in the community, were guilty of cheating in the past. They serve as examples that there is no time like the present. I also had the dishonor of being reported once, and it was a serious report too. Fun times.

Q: There are a lot of dead teams. Any plans to purge them?

A: One thing METROHO prides itself in is allowing players to take a break from the game and come back to their team the way they left it. I don't ever plan on purging teams.

Q: One of my original players that I hoped would hit the HOF one day was taken in free agency by a now dead team. Is there anything I can do to get that player freed?

A: At the moment, no. However, I plan on eventually allowing teams to bid on their ex-players who are stuck on a team that has been inactive for a really long time, say a year.

Q: What will the next big game-changing update be?

A: Hiring ex-players as coaches.

Q: Is there a 'potential' rating for individual players or is it completely random which players will hit 100?

A: It's random.

Q: If a GM is going away for an extended period of time, can they suspend their donation days?

A: Not at the moment. I'll have to think about adding something like that.

Q: I know there is no 'perfect' strategy, but what works for you?

A: I've tried a number of different things. If I have the better goalie I like to try to play a more open game (one with more shots). If I really want to win and my team isn't noticeably better than the other team, I'll try to keep the shots down and wait for a power play and only use more aggressive tactics when there's a line mismatch.

Q: What makes a good METROHO team?

A: It's all about contract value. The more players you underpay, the better your team will be. To do this, you need to build through the draft. Drill your drafted players and sign them long-term just before they hit a new pay level (ex. when they are 69, 74, 79, 84, or 89). It's also important to build around a good goalie. I've seen teams with relatively weak goalies win the Metro Cup, but it's rare.

Q: Can players come to you for advice?

A: For advice on whether a trade is fair, they should post in the forums. For advice on what to do with their team, they should post in the forums. If it's something the community can't answer well, then yes, they can come to me.

Q: Were the board moderators a good idea?

A: Yes. There has been less bashing since their inception.

Q: How did you learn to program?

A: Books and online tutorials.

Q: Are you in school?

A: I'm a business student preparing for law school.

Q: Why is Saku Koivu your favorite player?

A: He's a class act. He has a clean image and never gave up despite constant injury and illness. Now that he's no longer a Hab though my favorite player might have to be Markov, who also has a clean image and works hard.

Q: Do you get to go to many NHL games?

A: No. I just buy tickets whenever Montreal comes to my hometown. Once in awhile I'll go if a friend invites me, but only if it doesn't interfere with a Habs' TV game.

Q: Where did [R]oBi[N] go?

A: He's a busy business student. He plans on returning, though - maybe in the summer.

2010 Men's Winter Olympics' Ice Hockey Games

By DB13

Ice hockey at the Olympic Games have been held since 1920, the very first being in the Summer Olympics that year. It was later decided that the program would be moved permanently to the Winter Olympics in 1924. Although the Olympic Games have gone on year after year, it wasn't until 1998 in Nagano, Japan, that the NHL took part in Winter Games. After Russia went undefeated leading into the gold medal game, the Czech Republic knew they needed to work hard in order to upset the Russians. And that they did, becoming the first country to win gold in the ice hockey tournament that the NHL participated in.

The 2002 Olympic ice hockey games, in Salt Lake City, Utah, saw Canada play disastrous hockey, while the United States glided along to the gold medal game. But Canada got extremely lucky when Belarus upset Sweden in the Quarter Finals, basically guaranteeing a spot in the gold medal game for them. After a dismal tournament, Team Canada won the gold medal game against Team USA by the final score of 5-2.

After the 2004-05 NHL lockout occurred, Gary Bettman wanted nothing to do with the 2006 Winter Olympics, after he was the reason why the NHL participated in them in the first place. When the lockout was resolved in July, part of the NHL's Collective Bargaining Agreement stated that the NHL would be taking place in both the 2006 and 2010 Winter Games held in Turin, Italy, and Vancouver, Canada respectively. This year the gold medal game featured neither Canada nor the United States, but instead a Finland vs. Sweden match up. The game winning goal, and second of the tournament, came off Sweden's top defender Niklas Lidstrom.

This year the Olympic format has been changed drastically due to many injuries that occurred in previous tournaments. Gary Bettman, along with numerous organizations, didn't want the NHL to participate in the 2010 Olympic Games. But because of the new CBA, they were forced to. The NHL and Olympic committee agreed on terms to make the Winter Games "a little easier for everybody."

There will be three divisions of four teams a piece. Group A will house Canada, Norway, Switzerland, and United States. Group B will house Czech Republic, Latvia, Russia, and Slovakia. Lastly, Group C will house Belarus, Finland, Germany, and Sweden. The new format will have each team playing a three game round robin within their division, sort of a practice round if you will. The top four teams will then get a bye to the Quarter Finals while the remaining eight teams will face off against one another in the Secondary Round. It will then take place like any normal tournament with the Quarter Finals preceding the Semi Finals, and the Medal Games the Semi Finals.

Not only that but the ice hockey games will not be played on an international sized rink (61x30) this year, like in the past. Instead it will be played on a standard NHL sized rink (61x26), which will make it a more 'even' tournament and an easier adjustment for the NHLers. It should not only limit the amount of room skilled players can use to dance around other but it will also limit the open ice on power plays as well as make it a much more physical game. Although fighting isn't permitted in the Olympic Games, you can expect to see tons of big hits throughout the ice hockey tournament.

Out of the twelve teams participating in the 2010 Olympic Games, only two of those teams are fully composed of NHLers, Canada and the United States, while Norway has the least amount of NHLers with only one, Ole-Kristian Tollefsen. Although this is the case, none of the twelve teams should be counted out just yet. Upsets are bound to happen and have happened several times. Think back to the 2002 Olympic Games when Belarus beat out Sweden, think further back to 1980 when the United States upset Soviet Union for gold in Lack Placid.

Although this is the case, there are two teams in the spotlight for the 2010 Olympic Games, Canada and the United States. These two teams have arguably the best teams on paper and will be expected to step up and prove that they are as good on the ice as everyone thinks.

Steve Yzerman was the name behind most of the decisions in naming the players for Team Canada, some questionable while others were obvious. Playing in goal for Team Canada is a trio of French-Canadians, Martin Brodeur, Roberto Luongo, and Marc-Andre Fleury. Scott Neidermayer was named team Captain as well as Chris Pronger, Jarome Iginla, and Sydney Crosby as alternates.

On the other side of the North American border, Brian Burke was the head of the team, naming Jamie Langenbrunner as Captain. He also named youngsters Zach Parise, Dustin Brown, and Ryan Suter as well as veteran Brian Rafalski as the teams four alternative captains.

The first time these two rivals will meet is on February 21st where they will play at "General Motors Place", which was temporarily renamed "Canada Hockey Place" because corporate sponsors are unable to brand sports facilities during the Olympic Games. This probably will not be the only meeting these two powerhouse teams will play in as both teams are expected to go far in the tournament. It is now time for "DB Opinion Time" which will be 100% biased and 110% true! In my opinion, Canada is going to dominate. As the commercial goes "I believe!" I believe that Canada will win gold medal at the 2010 Olympic Ice Hockey Games, and they will do so against a very determined Russian squad. Alexander Ovechkin will lead the Russians to the finals, but will fall apart last minute and prove that one player cannot lead a team. Canada and Russia will get to the gold medal game after beating both United States and Sweden respectively.

In the Bronze medal game the United States and Sweden will face off. But having a full NHL team will not help the United States from missing out on a medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics, as Sweden will walk off the stage with bronze hanging from their necks.

That is all for this edition of the monthly NHL article brought to you by DB13, "Giving you opinions, so that you don't have to think for yourselves." Tune in next month for another NHL article!

Analyzing Your Team

By Kehmesis

Intro

Welcome to the team analysis section of the MetroHO Newsletter. I will be analyzing one or two teams every month, depending on the amount of free time I find to dedicate to this. I will pick teams whose GMs are active in the community and I will try my best to cover both new and veteran GMs alike to try and cover as much game theory as possible. The purpose of this article is to help GMs understand the management part of MetroHO better through exercise. There will obviously be a lot of GMs who will disagree with my statements, critics and methods. It's all good! Please post your thoughts

and comments on the forums. If we can stir up a good debate, it will be a lot of fun and everyone will profit from it. The goal I am fixing when managing a team is to ice a line-up filled with elite players. This means that a roster should have 12 elite forwards, 6 elite defensemen and an elite goalie, for a total of 19 elite players and 7 fringe players consisting of players making as little money as possible. I will be dissecting teams and heavily critic them. This will be done in 4 steps. The first step is presenting the team's payroll. The second step is criticizing the team's contracts. The third step is analyzing a team's rotation (a team's ability to replace their players once their contracts are over). The fourth step is making suggestions to help improve the team for the short and long term.

This month, I've chosen The Crazy 88's. Moi is a front runner in the community. He has been one of the better GMs, but his team is in what some of us call "an off-season". By that I do not mean that he's in between seasons. "Off seasons" happen a lot to the top teams because it's very hard to stay on top for a long time. This is mostly due to a lack of good rotation (we'll talk about this later on) since it's very hard to accomplish a good rotation in MetroHO. Once the great (read: cheap) contracts expires, we're left dropping a lot in the Power Rankings because we don't have an immediate replacement available. I thought The Crazy 88's were a perfect fit for my first team analysis partly because of its owner, who's one of the most prominent members of the community, but also because of the (relative) struggle they find themselves in at the moment.

Step One: Payroll

Here's The Crazy 88's payroll in a nutshell. You can see the contracts, the number of players needed and the money available for each of the next 8 seasons.

| Player Name | Age | Rating | Salary | Forwards | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | | | | Season #14 | Season #15 | Season #16 | Season #17 | Season #18 | Season #19 | Season #20 | Season #21 | Season #22 | |
| Desena | 29 | 94 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | UFA | | | | |
| Kukielka | 30 | 93 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | UFA | UFA | | | | |
| Pirog | 28 | 93 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | UFA | UFA | | | | | | |
| Largin | 26 | 87 | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 | UFA | | | | | | | | |
| Zuelke | 26 | 86 | 2,000,000 | UFA | | | | | | | | | |
| Scyoc | 32 | 81 | 1,800,000 | UFA | | | | | | | | | |
| Hibbitts | 19 | 79 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | UFA | |
| Cherny | 20 | 78 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | | | | |
| Yagimov | 24 | 82 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | RFA | | | | | | | | |
| Grundhoefer | 25 | 92 | 1,000,000 | RFA | | | | | | | | | |
| Pullano | 24 | 86 | 800,000 | | 800,000 | RFA | | | | | | | |
| Val | 23 | 85 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | | | |
| Flinchum | 23 | 85 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | | | |
| Sollars | 21 | 82 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | |
| Carrara | 21 | 81 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | |
| Modest | 21 | 80 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | UFA | | | | |
| Leffpwitz | 19 | 70 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | UFA | |
| Hemlepp | 19 | 70 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | UFA | |
| Missing | | | | -3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 15 | |
| Marquette | 18 | 70 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | RFA | |
| Dolce | 19 | 78 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | |
| Dekle | 20 | 75 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Player Name | Age | Rating | Salary | Defensemen | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | | | | Season #14 | Season #15 | Season #16 | Season #17 | Season #18 | Season #19 | Season #20 | Season #21 | Season #22 | |
| Stanislawski | 22 | 98 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | RFA | | | | | |
| Wheless | 26 | 94 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | 7,500,000 | UFA | | | |
| Vandressar | 25 | 93 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | UFA | | | | | | |
| Langmyer | 20 | 92 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | RFA | | | | |
| Dales | 22 | 81 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | 800,000 | UFA | | |
| Gainey | 25 | 91 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | | | | | |
| Kinkle | 24 | 83 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | | | | |
| Tidmore | 24 | 73 | 400,000 | 400,000 | RFA | | | | | | | | |
| Missing | | | | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 8 | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Player Name | Age | Rating | Salary | Goalies | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|--------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | | | | Season #14 | Season #15 | Season #16 | Season #17 | Season #18 | Season #19 | Season #20 | Season #21 | Season #22 | |
| Rucks | 21 | 91 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | RFA | | | |
| Limon | 25 | 94 | 500,000 | RFA | | | | | | | | | |
| Eans | 20 | 93 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | RFA | | | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Missing | | | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | |
| Player Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|--|--|
| Total | | | 61,900,000 | 56,200,000 | 51,600,000 | 40,300,000 | 25,300,000 | 17,000,000 | 12,100,000 | 2,300,000 | | | |
| Cap Space | | | 3,100,000 | 8,800,000 | 13,400,000 | 24,700,000 | 39,700,000 | 48,000,000 | 52,900,000 | 62,700,000 | | | |
| Players Needed | | | 0 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 26 | | |
| Average \$ per player | | | 3,100,000.00 | 4,400,000.00 | 1,914,285.71 | 2,245,454.55 | 3,053,846.15 | 3,000,000.00 | 2,645,000.00 | 2,726,086.96 | 0.00 | | |

Step 2: Contracts

There are 2 primary factors when considering the strength of a contract. The first one is obviously the salary. Generally, the lower the salary, the better the contract. The second one is the length. It's great to have a 400k elite player on your team, but if you're about to lose him, he's only great for one season making the contract a lot less valuable.

So, what's my assessment of The Crazy 88's contracts? I've separated them into five categories: great, good, decent, bad and horrible contracts. Let's see how that went:

Great contracts

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Terrence Vandresar ★ | 93 | 25 | Stay-At-Home Defenseman | \$3,000,000 (3) |
| Alphonse Langmyer ★ | 92 | 20 | Stay-At-Home Defenseman | \$3,000,000 (6) |

There are 2 great contracts one this team, but Langmyer's contract is simply superb. 3 million is a magic number because most of your players could make 3M and you wouldn't go over the cap. Remember, we need 19 elite players on a team. If they all made 3M, you're up to 57M and 8M to spend on fringe players. Anything cheaper is better only because it gives you extra credit to spend for players asking over 3M. Basically, a contract cheaper than 3M is used to compensate the salaries that are over 3M.

Good Contracts

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Mike Hibbits 🇺🇸 | 79 | 19 | Playmaker | \$1,500,000 (8) |
| Jay Cherny | 78 | 20 | Power Forward | \$1,500,000 (7) |
| Pedro Grundhoefer ★ | 92 | 25 | Power Forward | \$1,000,000 (1) |
| Burt Dales ★ | 81 | 22 | Stay-At-Home Defenseman | \$800,000 (7) |
| Houston Eans ★ | 93 | 20 | Butterfly | \$500,000 (6) |
| Darryl Dolce | 78 | 19 | Two-Way Forward | \$400,000 (7) |

There are plenty of good contracts, here, and it's something to expect from Moi. Some will say that Hibbits' contract is great, but it's really on the edge. The reason is that by the time he reaches 90+ and becomes a line-up player, it's unclear how many years he will have left. With luck, this will turn into a great contract. However, all the years he'll be a fringe player will be wasted years on his contract. Similarly, Cherny is only a good contract because he's further away from 90 with a year already spent doing nothing. He will most likely lose another 3-4 years before he's a bargain 90 player, leaving only 3-4 years as a great contract.

Grundhoefer is only great for this season. He's going to be too expensive next season. For the long term, he's useless. But because he is so cheap this season, it's still obviously a good contract.

There was a time when the perfect strategy was to sign all players at 69 or 74 in rating so that we got these players at the lowest possible salary (400k and 800k). But the game evolved, since, and GMs are still stuck in the old mentality. A 90+ player doing 400k was such a great deal that it propelled teams on the top of the Power Rankings. It's not the case anymore. A 90+ player doing 3M is just as good, and often a lot better because he has more years left on his contract. A 400k 90+ player will only have a year or two. Three at most, if you're extremely lucky.

Decent Contracts

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----|----------------------|-----------------|
| Jayson Stanislawski ★ | 98 | 22 | Offensive Defenseman | \$7,500,000 (4) |
| Janne Zuelke ★ | 86 | 25 | Two-Way Forward | \$2,000,000 (1) |
| Gilbert Marquette 🇺🇸 | 70 | 18 | Checker | \$800,000 (8) |
| Peter Limon ★ | 94 | 25 | Butterfly | \$500,000 (1) |
| Zack Ganey ★ | 91 | 25 | Offensive Defenseman | \$400,000 (1) |
| Carroll Largin ★ | 87 | 26 | Sniper | \$2,000,000 (2) |
| Richard Val ★ | 85 | 23 | Checker | \$400,000 (3) |
| Zack Flinchum ★ | 85 | 23 | Two-Way Forward | \$400,000 (3) |
| Maurice Sollars ★ | 82 | 21 | Power Forward | \$400,000 (5) |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----|-----------------|---------------|
| Alan Carrara ★ | 81 | 21 | Two-Way Forward | \$400,000 (5) |
| Carl Modest ★ | 80 | 21 | Two-Way Forward | \$400,000 (6) |
| Stanford Lefkowitz 🏠 | 70 | 19 | Sniper | \$400,000 (8) |
| Frederick Hemlepp 🏠 | 69 | 19 | Playmaker | \$400,000 (8) |

Most of the other contracts on The Crazy 88's teams are decent contracts. Most of those are cheap contracts at a great value (meaning they are paid less than their true-value according to the arbitrary salaries). However, the players themselves aren't good enough to make this team a contender. For instance, a 85+ player for 400k is a great deal, but that doesn't make it a great contract because he's either on the bench... or should be. Let's take a look at Val: young, rated 85, 400k a year. He's a great bargain in the old mentality. But when is he really going to make a difference? He's a fringe player on a top team or a 4th liner at best. If your team is 2-3 seasons old, you'll kill for a player like Val. On a team like The Crazy 88's, he's just not good enough with 3 years left on his contract. He'd need at least 5.

In 3 seasons he'll be an elite player, but his contract will be over and he'll be asking for 7.5M. A 4th liner contract can only be decent at best. Marquette is probably the best contract in there, but he was signed too early in my opinion since he'll be wasting a lot of contract years on the bench. He should have been signed at 74 rating at the earliest, and probably at 79 or 84.

Stanislawski is close to a good contract. 98+ players are rare, and they are often worth the extra bucks. When you do have the extra cap space, don't hesitate to have such a player in your line-up as they can make a difference.

Bad Contracts

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----|----------------------|-----------------|
| Denis Desena ★ | 94 | 29 | Playmaker | \$7,500,000 (5) |
| Hilton Wheless ★ | 94 | 26 | Offensive Defenseman | \$7,500,000 (7) |
| Craig Kukielka ★ | 93 | 30 | Sniper | \$7,500,000 (4) |
| Kirk Pirog ★ | 93 | 28 | Two-Way Forward | \$7,500,000 (3) |
| Vyacheslav Scvoc ★ | 81 | 32 | Checker | \$1,800,000 (1) |
| Mathew Rucks ★ | 91 | 21 | Hybrid | \$1,000,000 (5) |
| Sheldon Vaginov ★ | 82 | 24 | Two-Way Forward | \$1,000,000 (2) |
| Johnie Pullano ★ | 86 | 24 | Power Forward | \$800,000 (2) |
| Travis Kinkle ★ | 83 | 24 | Offensive Defenseman | \$400,000 (2) |
| Jose Dekle | 74 | 20 | Sniper | \$400,000 (6) |
| Harris Tidmore | 73 | 24 | Offensive Defenseman | \$400,000 (2) |

7.5M elites are not good contracts, period. True-value contracts are not good contracts. It's hard to let elites walk, but when you have a good rotation, it's so much easier. And it's so much easier to have a good rotation when you don't have 7.5M players on your team. It's a vicious cycle that's hard to break, but it's possible.

You can always find elites on the free market for 6.75M, saving 750k for each of them. If you have a 7.5M player on your team, it's because you made a mistake a few months ago when you signed your first contract with that player. It's really just a 400k-1.5M 90 player that has 2-3 years left on his contract. When it runs out, they become too expensive and you need to sign them to 7.5M contracts or lose them. Looking at the youngsters on Moi's team, they are signed too early and they will all turn into 7.5M players. Moi needs to concentrate on breaking this cycle and it starts by signing youngsters later.

A great trick is to extend your 7.5M players when their contracts are running out, and offer them in the off-season trade for a 2nd round pick. There are always GMs looking for younger elites (usually 26 years old) in the offseason. This way, you're turning all your 7.5M players into draft picks that you can use to acquire salary-consumed players or prospects.

400k and 800k contracts are never really bad contracts. But in this case, these cheap contracts are bad contracts simply because they could have been a lot better. When you sign players too early, you end up with fringe players asking 5M a piece at 26yo. They are pretty useless and a waste of prospects.

Horrible Contracts

As one would expect, Moi doesn't have horrible contracts on his team.

Step 3: Team rotation

When good contracts run out, a GM needs to let the players go unless they pay the big price them. What happens is that the better teams have a ton of really cheap contracts and they eventually have to let a few elite players go because they can't afford them once those contracts start running out. The only way they can stay on top is if they have an equally good contract replacing the previous one. Or as I call it: a good rotation system.

Elites with cheap contracts (5M or cheaper), excluding goalies:

Vandresar - 3M (3)

Langmyer - 3M (6)

Grundhoefer - 1M (1)

Ganey - 400k (1)

Next season, he will lose 2 cheap elite players; he will lose one more in 3 seasons and then 1 more in 6 seasons. On paper, it looks pretty good. Only 2 elite players to replace are not many. Also, 3 and 6 seasons is plenty of time to replace 2 more. Players with 6 years or more on their contract can usually be replaced with draft picks, so they are not factors in the rotation system because the players replacing them are usually not yet drafted.

The reason there are so few elites to replace is mainly because there are few cheap elite players on the team, hence the reason why they are in a struggling period. This is a golden opportunity to rebuild. Few players to replace means that the elite count can only go up. It's time to climb up the rankings!

7.5M players can always be replaced on the free agent market so they are not a factor in the team's rotation system.

Who's stepping in soon?

Val (85) - 23yo 400k (3). In 2 or 3 seasons he will most likely be an elite player. However, he will be rotated out just as quickly as he came in.

Flinchum (85) - 23yo 400k (3). See above.

Basically no one is stepping in in the immediate future to replace Grundhoefer and Ganey.

Who's stepping in eventually?

Dales (82) - 800k (7). Dales should be elite in 2 to 4 seasons. The more likely is in 3 seasons, leaving about 4 years on his contract as a very cheap elite player. He'll most likely replace Vandresar.

Hibbitts (79) - 19yo 1.5M (8). On average, he should have about 4 or 5 years left on his contract when he becomes an elite player. This is very good. He's not replacing anyone, making him an extra elite player.

Cherny (78) - 20yo 1.5M (7). He's similar to Hibbitts with 1 fewer year on his contract. He should have 3-4 years left as an elite player. This is good. He's also an extra elite player, since he's not replacing anyone.

Marquette (70) - 18yo 800k (8). As we discussed earlier, Marquette was signed too early. It's hard to tell if he will become an elite player or not, and if he does, few years will be left. This is a toss-up; we need some luck.

Sollars, Carrara, Modest (82,81,80) - 21yo 400k (5,5,6). They're all running out of time. This would be a great time to extend them to 8 year contracts if it were possible. If Moi doesn't give up on them, they'll most likely all turn into elite players with very cheap contracts. But they shouldn't play for more than 1 or 2 years as elite players. Expect Moi to have a pretty good team in about 4 seasons, but they will most likely go back down almost immediately.

Dolce (78) - 19yo 400k (7). They are similar to Hibbitts with 1 year fewer but extremely cheap. He's an extra up and coming elite.

Lefkowitz, Hemlepp (70) - 19yo 400k (8). Other players signed way too early. They are very likely to replace Sollars, Carrara and Modest, keeping the rotation intact for these 3 players, but not upping the Elite count unless lucky.

So, what does it look like?

Well, the rotation is very good considering the current team, and it is giving positive numbers in regards to the number of elite players coming up compared to those leaving. Moi will be gaining more elite players than he'll be losing, but that's mostly due to the fact that he has very few to lose.

This will most likely lead The Crazy 88 to go up in the rankings for the next few years and remain there for a couple more. However, it is very doubtful they will be able to push up past the top 20 or so, keeping them from having a shot in the Medallion and Denslow Cup, but giving them a very good team to compete in 15-team any All Level Leagues. Even the top 40 will be a struggle to push past, unless they get rental players, obviously.

Step 4: Suggestions

In my opinion, Moi needs to have a better balance of really cheap contracts (his preference) and meaningful contracts. As we've seen throughout this article, it's often a good idea to have slightly more expensive contracts that lasts longer. Yes, contracts always last about 8 or 9 years, but when we sign players too early their meaningful years are quite shorter and really hurt the player rotation. Meaningful contracts are contracts that will see the player in the line-up for as many years as possible, instead of on the bench. What good is a great prospect acting as a fringe player? He might as well stay unsigned.

When short on players, signing a draft pick to a 400k or 800k contract is not always the optimal strategy.

We can easily leave them as unsigned draft picks until they are much older and fill up our roster with real fringe players (400k rotten oldies).

Next season, Zuelke and Ganey will rotate out of the system and I would not suggest keeping them. However, I would not let them leave for nothing. A good idea is to extend them now for their asking price. Once out of the playoffs, waive a couple big contracts in order to sign Zuelke and Ganey in the offseason's first reset. Then, they can be offered in the offseason market for a 2nd round draft pick each. After a couple of days, lower the asking price to a 3rd round pick should they not be claimed. My experience shows that it's almost guaranteed they will go for at least a 3rd pick.

Hope you have enjoyed this segment of the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, please post them in the forums under the appropriate thread. You can also always PM me. See you next month!



January Wrap Up

Denslow Cup



Trogdor1009, the founder and organizer of the popular Denslow Cup, had the following to say about the January tournament.

"The January 2010 Denslow Cup was a record breaker. The 18th monthly tournament featured two undefeated teams for the first time ever. On top of that, there was also the first all-time perfect Denslow Cup by the Yabba Dabbas.

"The opening rounds were surprising with the #6 seed New Bedford Hax starting off 0-0-0-2 against the lowest power ranked team in the entire tournament. Denslow regulars Blue + Gold and The Doom also struggled early on and went on to miss qualifying for the knockout stage. Entering the final round of pool play, there were still about 20 teams alive going for the 16 knockout round spots. The Dragons 78 managed to squeak in with the lowest advancing score ever of just 17 points. This was because the Yabba Dabbas had so many points, making 3rd place and lower have a smaller than average total. There was actually 1 team in every pool outside of Pool B that had more than 17 points and was left out of the knockout rounds.

"The Qualifying Round had nearly all blowouts with just one series going to tiebreak. The Quarterfinals had all the expected teams winning with nothing even close to an upset occurring. The Yabba Dabbas and Longerwood Enzytes took care of business in the Semis, setting up a #1 vs. #2 power ranked battle in the Cup Finals.

The Yabbas went on to win and finish the perfect Cup, which is worth 48 ranking points. It was enough to take over the #1 ranking, stealing it from the Tirelrons who held the spot for 5 straight months."

Yabbadabba, GM of the winning squad explained: "I would say that this tournament ranks either #1 or 2 in difficulty, and I would compare it to winning a real life major trophy. It is an extremely hard fought battle from beginning to end, with no let ups at any point. Always contains the "best of the best" in MetroHO. To me, this is the pinnacle of MetroHO. Although I think we can agree that timing is 75% of the deal in anything of this nature, and building a powerhouse team for any given objective (Medallion, Denslow, etc) is not above anyone's means, to be able to say that here, today, I am the Denslow champion gives me great pride and pleasure - it is, to be sure, a great accomplishment."

Medallion



The Medallion XVIII featured two tiers of 128 teams each. The Covington Blackhawks won Tier 2 while The Longerwood Enzytes were victors of Tier 1.

"Well I've won the previous two Medallions with a 14-0 home record," Footballmdm11, GM of the Enzytes, proudly stated. "I really do cherish them and put them no lower than any of my other trophies, if anything, they're one of my greatest accomplishments. It took me quite a while to win ANYTHING, so to get two in a row is pretty special for me. They're very hard to win so I take great pride in the dedication I put towards this game and my team."

NoName Tourney

The NoName tourney, the sole new tournament in January, featured a somewhat new approach. There were 18 teams divided in six groups of three teams each. After a first round that saw The Yabba Dabbas go 12-0 and +52, and a second round that eliminated everyone but The Longerwood Enzytes and The Yabba Dabbas, the finals were set to be an intense showdown; two powerhouses dueling it out in a classic seven game series. The Enzytes came out on top, beating The Yabba Dabbas in 6 games. "I think it went well," Footballmdm11, GM of the Enzytes said of the tourney. "Didn't really have that "wow" feature like some other tournaments have...Denslow has a trophy...Canada cup/others have a banner...a banner or something would have been a nice reward. But overall it wasn't all that bad. I'd do it again. I love the fact that I am the first winner of the tourney. That's something unique. And to have the next tourney named after my team...that's pretty sick!"

Changes to the Game

There were a few changes to MetroHO this month, these changes included: the power play being toned down a bit, team names and team players show up bolded on the "Standings" and "Player Stats" pages, and even a "Games News" Feed in the "News" section. These changes are all great changes to the game as they will make MetroHO both fair and easier to use.

YES or NO with beefrog

By: DB13

- #1 - Were the Longerwood Enzytes' players on drugs last month? **yes**
- #2 - Could you beat Moi in a flame war? **no lol**
- #3 - Is DB13 too attached to Hong Kent and Irwin Cheever? **yes**
- #4 - Are Kehmesis' draft skills pissing you off? **YES**
- #5 - Do you like the new drafting system compared to the old drafting system? **YES**
- #6 - Are DB13's secrets a flop in your mind? **yes**
- #7 - Are you excited for February 1st? **yes**
- #8 - Do you use the 9 year trick when signing unsigned draft picks? **yes**
- #9 - Are the Ice Pirates your arch rival? **YES**
- #10 - Do you believe in magic? **yes**
- #11 - Will the world end in 2012? **no**
- #12 - Do the Men In Black exist? **yes**
- #13 - Is Major Tinkle the best name on MetroHO? **lol yes**
- #14 - Are gm666 and cementhead the same person? **yes**
- #15 - Would you pay \$7,000,000 or more for a 100 rated goalie? **yes**
- #16 - Are you looking like a fool with your pants on the ground? **no?**
- #17 - Is the Medallion a crap shot? **yes**
- #18 - Does SJBoy still lurk in the game? **yes**
- #19 - Do you play hockey? **yes**
- #20 - Do you have a multiple account? **yes**
- #21 - Do you spend too much time on MetroHO? **yes**
- #22 - Is the off-season automatic trader a joke? **yes**
- #23 - Did you fall for the "Rookie Mistake"? **yes**
- #24 - Is Adam and Blade the same guy? **no**
- #25 - Should I stop with all the questions? **no**

Thanks to beefrog for his participation and I hope you enjoyed these YES or NO questions and answers.

DISCLAIMER: Do not take these questions or answers seriously if they involve you in them...

Canada Cup

January was a sad month for Canada Cup fans and participants. Unfortunately there was no Canada Cup scheduled for the month as to get preparations for the tournament in February. And the return of Canada Cup in February should be a hit, as it will finally be opening up the borders and welcoming the United States to take part in the series. It will feature two divisions, which will separate the Canadians from the Americans. But not for long as the finals will show the two teams duking it out in a best of 9 epic series. Check out the Tournaments forum for more details. Sign-ups will start February 5th and will last until the 11th.



GM OF THE MONTH

The
Longerwood
Enzytes

Honorable Mentions:

The Yabba Dabbas
The Ice Pirates
The Richmond Hill
The Evans City Zombies

The Wall of Shame

January banned teams

The Iowa Stars

**The Iowa
Redwings**

The Salsa Killers

The Ex0 \$41

The Sieurs

The Nordiques

Hockey Trivia

By IronDogg

1. Making his NHL debut, this player scored a goal and picked up an assist vs. the Jets. He was the leading scorer of his team and set team records for a first year player for both goals scored and total points.
2. This robust lad barged on to the scene as a rookie with one mission in life; to play rough and tough. He did just that with 296 penalty minutes in just 45 games. He also scored 7 goals, a big surprise bonus for the team management.
3. This player was a Centennial Cup MVP, was drafted ninth overall in the NHL draft, was a WCHA rookie of the year, Won a NCAA championship, was a two time winner of the World Junior Championships for Team Canada, and he represented Canada in the Olympic games. (Hint: He was born in Winnipeg).
4. This second round draft choice for the Habs scored 56 goals in four years at university and was named to the ECAC Second All-Star Team. He also played briefly in the NHL before his rookie season, and scored an impressive 7 points in 10 games.
5. Who is the first U.S. born player to record over 100 points in a season?
6. What are the minimum roster requirements for entering The Medallion?

Trivia Rules:

- Send your responses to IronDogg via private message on MetroHO.com.
 - Only one (1) submission per user, if multiple the first one will be the ONLY one used.
 - One (1) point per correct answer.
 - If there are multiple winning submissions, then a random winner will be selected from the winning submissions as the month's winner.
 - Winner's prize is one (1) month's worth of "Bragging Rights".
 - Newsletter Crew members are not eligible to win but can still submit answers.
- More rules pending.*

YouTube Corner

- Blue Line - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8Yqj-wSGm4&feature=related>
 Cliches - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjkUMbrT5SU&feature=related>
 110% - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pz3KpY5lrRc&feature=related>
 Injuries - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZrAIBwNak&feature=related>

Editor's Notebook *with Alfie*

I hope you enjoyed the first edition of the all-new MetroHO Newsletter! It's a monthly edition and it is run by the users, for the users. The current features will be mainstays; however we are planning on adding even more articles, stats and games in next month's newsletter. This means we need a larger crew to operate in our time window of one month. If you wish to help out, send me an in-game mail with your qualifications and the team will try to find an appropriate job for you.